

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7695

To amend title 10, United States Code, to prescribe the minimum number of operational amphibious battle force ships that must be included in the combat forces of the Navy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2022

Mr. WITTMAN (for himself and Mr. COURTNEY) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to prescribe the minimum number of operational amphibious battle force ships that must be included in the combat forces of the Navy, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. MINIMUM NUMBER OF AMPHIBIOUS BATTLE**
4 **FORCE SHIPS IN THE COMBAT FORCES OF**
5 **THE NAVY.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The amphibious warfare ship force struc-
8 ture of the Navy must be maintained at 31, com-

1 posed of 10 amphibious assault ships general-pur-
2 pose and multi-purpose, and 21 amphibious trans-
3 port dock types, in order to meet global commit-
4 ments.

5 (2) Amphibious warfare ships provide fleet com-
6 manders and joint force commanders with credible
7 deterrence, support active campaigning strategies,
8 and offer an option for the rapid aggregation of for-
9 ward, tailored, and ready forces to respond to crisis
10 and conflict.

11 (3) Due to their utility across the spectrum of
12 competition and conflict, including substantial deter-
13 rent value during periods of uncertainty, amphibious
14 warfare ships are one of the assets most requested
15 by combatant commanders.

16 (4) A single three-ship amphibious ready group
17 formation with an embarked Marine Expeditionary
18 Unit provides over 2,000 sailors and marines, 5th
19 generation fighters, helicopters, tiltrotor aircraft,
20 anti-air capabilities, lethal fires, and a suite of sen-
21 sor and communication systems that provide fleet
22 and joint force commanders with tailored options
23 that support naval expeditionary and joint force
24 campaigns.

1 (5) Amphibious-based forces employ these capa-
2 bilities from sovereign territory aboard ship, without
3 the need for overseas basing, as such these forces
4 provide a unique and consequential offering to the
5 joint force.

6 (6) Reductions in amphibious warfare ship pro-
7 curement profile and decommissioning plans that re-
8 sult in less than the proscribed composition of 31
9 amphibious ships will negatively impact the ability of
10 the Navy to execute distributed maritime operations;
11 combatant commanders' access to a flexible, nimble,
12 and capable force; and the Nation's ability to force
13 project.

14 (7) Strategic global competition will continue to
15 require the need for forward postured, combat cred-
16 ible, strategically maneuverable forces, capable of op-
17 erating across a range of missions and threat envi-
18 ronments—amphibious warfare ships are critical to
19 providing this capability.

20 (b) MINIMUM REQUIREMENT.—Section 8062 of title
21 10, United States Code, is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subsections (c) through (f)
23 as subsections (d) through (g), respectively; and

24 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
25 lowing new subsection:

1 “(c) The naval combat forces of the Navy shall in-
2 clude not less than 31 operational amphibious battle force
3 ships (as defined in section 8671(d) of this title). For pur-
4 poses of this subsection, an operational amphibious battle
5 force ship includes such a ship that is temporarily unavail-
6 able for worldwide deployment due to routine or scheduled
7 maintenance or repair.”.

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