

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To repeal the Jones Act restrictions on coastwise trade, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. McCAIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To repeal the Jones Act restrictions on coastwise trade, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Open America’s
5 Waters Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON COASTWISE**

7 **TRADE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12112(a) of title 46,
9 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A coastwise endorsement may be
2 issued for a vessel that qualifies under the laws of the
3 United States to engage in the coastwise trade.”.

4 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of
6 the United States Coast Guard shall issue regulations to
7 implement the amendment made by subsection (a) that
8 require all vessels permitted to engage in the coastwise
9 trade to meet all appropriate safety and security require-
10 ments.

11 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

12 (1) TANK VESSEL CONSTRUCTION STAND-
13 ARDS.—Section 3703a(c)(1)(C) of title 46, United
14 States Code, is amended by striking “and is quali-
15 fied for documentation as a wrecked vessel under
16 section 12112 of this title”.

17 (2) LIQUIFIED GAS TANKERS.—Section 12120
18 of such title is amended by striking “, if the vessel—
19 ” and all that follows and inserting a period.

20 (3) SMALL PASSENGER VESSELS.—Section
21 12121(b) of such title is amended by striking
22 “12112,”.

23 (4) LOSS OF COASTWISE TRADE PRIVILEGES.—
24 Section 12132 of such title is repealed.

1 (5) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
2 tions for chapter 121 of title 46, United States
3 Code, is amended by striking the item relating to
4 section 12132.