

(1) steps taken to implement actions recommended in the document titled “National Strategy for the Marine Transportation System: A Framework for Action” and dated July 2008;

(2) an assessment of the condition of the marine transportation system;

(3) a discussion of the challenges the marine transportation system faces in meeting user demand, including estimates of investment levels required to ensure system infrastructure meets such demand;

(4) a plan, with recommended actions, for improving the marine transportation system to meet current and future challenges; and

(5) steps taken to implement actions recommended in previous reports required under this subsection.

(f) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its purpose and activities, the Committee may consult with marine transportation system-related advisory committees, interested parties, and the public.

(Added Pub. L. 112–213, title III, §310(a), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1567, §55502; renumbered §55501, Pub. L. 113–281, title III, §301(2), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 3042.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of this Act, referred to in subsec. (e), probably means the date of enactment of Pub. L. 112–213, which enacted this section and was approved Dec. 20, 2012.

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 55501, Pub. L. 109–304, §8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1650, related to mobile trade fairs to show and sell United States products at foreign ports and other global commercial centers, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 113–281, title III, §301(1), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 3042.

#### AMENDMENTS

2014—Pub. L. 113–281 renumbered section 55502 of this title as this section.

#### [§ 55502. Renumbered § 55501]

### CHAPTER 556—SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION

Sec.	
55601.	Short sea transportation program.
55602.	Cargo and shippers.
55603.	Interagency coordination.
55604.	Research on short sea transportation.
55605.	Short sea transportation defined.

#### § 55601. Short sea transportation program

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall establish a short sea transportation program and designate short sea transportation projects to be conducted under the program to mitigate landside congestion or to promote short sea transportation.

(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The program shall encourage the use of short sea transportation through the development and expansion of—

- (1) documented vessels;
- (2) shipper utilization;
- (3) port and landside infrastructure; and
- (4) marine transportation strategies by State and local governments.

(c) SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION ROUTES.—The Secretary shall designate short sea transpor-

tation routes as extensions of the surface transportation system to focus public and private efforts to use the waterways to relieve landside congestion along coastal corridors or to promote short sea transportation. The Secretary may collect and disseminate data for the designation and delineation of short sea transportation routes.

(d) PROJECT DESIGNATION.—The Secretary may designate a project to be a short sea transportation project if the Secretary determines that the project uses documented vessels and—

- (1) mitigates landside congestion; or
- (2) promotes short sea transportation.

(e) ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM.—For a short sea transportation project designated under this section, the Secretary may—

- (1) promote the development of short sea transportation services;
- (2) coordinate, with ports, State departments of transportation, localities, other public agencies, and the private sector and on the development of landside facilities and infrastructure to support short sea transportation services; and
- (3) develop performance measures for the short sea transportation program.

(f) MULTISTATE, STATE AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING.—The Secretary, in consultation with Federal entities and State and local governments, may develop strategies to encourage the use of short sea transportation for transportation of passengers and cargo. The Secretary may—

- (1) assess the extent to which States and local governments include short sea transportation and other marine transportation solutions in their transportation planning;
- (2) encourage State departments of transportation to develop strategies, where appropriate, to incorporate short sea transportation, ferries, and other marine transportation solutions for regional and interstate transport of freight and passengers in their transportation planning; and
- (3) encourage groups of States and multi-State transportation entities to determine how short sea transportation can address congestion, bottlenecks, and other interstate transportation challenges.

(g) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and implement a short sea transportation grant program to implement projects or components of a project designated under subsection (d).

(2) APPLICATIONS.—In order to receive a grant under the program, an applicant shall—

- (A) submit an application to the Secretary, in such form and manner, at such time, and containing such information as the Secretary may require; and
- (B) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that—

- (i) the project is financially viable;
- (ii) the funds received will be spent efficiently and effectively; and
- (iii) a market exists for the services of the proposed project as evidenced by contracts or written statements of intent from potential customers.