

portation System (in this section referred to as the “Committee”).

(b) PURPOSE.—The Committee shall serve as a Federal interagency coordinating committee for the purpose of—

(1) assessing the adequacy of the marine transportation system (including ports, waterways, channels, and their intermodal connections);

(2) promoting the integration of the marine transportation system with other modes of transportation and other uses of the marine environment; and

(3) coordinating, improving the coordination of, and making recommendations with regard to Federal policies that impact the marine transportation system.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of—

(A) the Secretary of Transportation;

(B) the Secretary of Defense;

(C) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(D) the Secretary of Commerce;

(E) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(F) the Secretary of State;

(G) the Secretary of the Interior;

(H) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(I) the Attorney General;

(J) the Secretary of Labor;

(K) the Secretary of Energy;

(L) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(M) the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission;

(N) the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and

(O) the head of any other Federal agency who a majority of the voting members of the Committee determines can further the purpose and activities of the Committee.

(2) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Committee may include as many nonvoting members as a majority of the voting members of the Committee determines is appropriate to further the purpose and activities of the Committee.

(d) SUPPORT.—

(1) COORDINATING BOARD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established, within the Committee, a Coordinating Board. Each member of the Committee may select a senior level representative to serve on such Board. The Board shall assist the Committee in carrying out its purpose and activities.

(B) CHAIR.—There shall be a Chair of the Coordinating Board. The Chair of the Coordinating Board shall rotate each year among the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Commerce. The order of rotation shall be determined by a majority of the voting members of the Committee.

(2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Commerce, shall appoint an Executive Director of the Committee.

(3) TRANSFERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of a Federal department or agency who is a member of the Committee may—

(A) provide, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, facilities, equipment, services, personnel, and other support services to carry out the activities of the Committee; and

(B) transfer funds to another Federal department or agency in order to carry out the activities of the Committee.

(e) MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act and every 5 years thereafter, the Committee shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(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.

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§ 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 transportation 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.

(3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An applicant shall provide at least 20 percent of the project costs from non-Federal sources. In awarding grants under the program, the Secretary shall give a preference to those projects or components that present the most financially viable transportation services and require the lowest percentage Federal share of the costs.

(Added Pub. L. 110-140, title XI, § 1121(a), Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1760; amended Pub. L. 111-84, div. C, title XXXV, § 3515, Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2724; Pub. L. 112-213, title IV, § 405(a), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1571.)

AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 112-213, § 405(a)(1), substituted “landside congestion or to promote short sea transportation.” for “landside congestion.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 112-213, § 405(a)(2), substituted “coastal corridors or to promote short sea transportation” for “coastal corridors”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 112-213, § 405(a)(3), substituted “that the project uses documented vessels and—” for “that the project may—” in introductory provisions, added pars. (1) and (2), and struck out former pars. (1) and (2) which read as follows:

“(1) offer a waterborne alternative to available landside transportation services using documented vessels; and

“(2) provide transportation services for passengers or freight (or both) that may reduce congestion on landside infrastructure using documented vessels.”

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 112-213, § 405(a)(4), substituted “may” for “shall” in two places in introductory provisions.

2009—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 111-84 added subsec. (g).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 1 day after Dec. 19, 2007, see section 1601 of Pub. L. 110-140, set out as a note under section 1824 of Title 2, The Congress.

REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 110-140, title XI, § 1121(c), Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1762, provided that:

“(1) INTERIM REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 19, 2007], the Secretary of Transportation shall issue temporary regulations to implement the program under this sec-