

Government department or agency by which any vessel is acquired or chartered, or to which any vessel is transferred or made available under section 56309 or 56310, as applicable, may, with the aid of any funds available and without regard to the provisions of section 6101 of title 41, repair, reconstruct, or recondition any such vessels to meet the needs of the services intended, or provide facilities for such repair, reconstruction, or reconditioning. The Secretary of Transportation may operate or charter for operation any vessel to be utilized under section 56309 or 56310, as applicable² to private operators, citizens of the United States, or to any department or agency of the United States Government, without regard to the provisions of chapter 575, and any department or agency of the United States Government is authorized to enter into such charters.

(e) In case of any voyage of a vessel documented under the provisions of this section begun before the date of termination of an effective period of section 196 of this title, but is completed after such date, the provisions of this section shall continue in effect with respect to such vessel until such voyage is completed.

(Added and amended Pub. L. 115-91, div. C, title XXXV, § 3504(c), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1912.)

CODIFICATION

Section, as added and amended by section 3504(c) of Pub. L. 115-91, is based on act Aug. 9, 1954, ch. 659, § 3, 68 Stat. 675; Pub. L. 89-670, § 6(b)(1), (2), Oct. 15, 1966, 80 Stat. 938; Pub. L. 97-31, § 12(152), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 167, which was formerly classified to section 198 of Title 50, War and National Defense, before being transferred to this chapter and renumbered as this section.

AMENDMENTS

2017—Pub. L. 115-91, § 3504(c)(3)(A), substituted “section 56309 or 56310, as applicable” for “this Act” wherever appearing, except in first sentence of subsec. (c) and second sentence of subsec. (d).

Pub. L. 115-91, § 3504(c)(2), inserted section enumerator and catchline.

Pub. L. 115-91, § 3504(c)(1), transferred section 3 of act Aug. 9, 1954, to this chapter and renumbered it as this section. See Codification note above.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115-91, § 3504(c)(3)(B), substituted “section 56309 or 56310, as applicable,” for “this Act” in first sentence and “Section 57109” for “The second paragraph of section 9 of the Shipping Act, 1916, as amended,” in third sentence.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 115-91, § 3504(c)(3)(C)(i)–(iii), substituted, in first sentence, “section 6101 of title 41” for “provisions of section 3709 of the Revised Statutes”, in second sentence, “section 56309 or 56310, as applicable,” for “this Act” and “section 6101 of title 41” for “said section 3709”, and, in third sentence, “chapter 575” for “title VII of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936”.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 115-91, § 3504(c)(3)(C)(iv), struck out subsec. (f) which read as follows: “When used in this Act, the term ‘documented’ means ‘registered’, ‘enrolled and licensed’, or ‘licensed’.” See section 56312 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security,

and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

“Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating” substituted in subsec. (a) for “Secretary of the Treasury” pursuant to section 6(b)(1), (2) of Pub. L. 89-670, which transferred Coast Guard to Department of Transportation and transferred to and vested in Secretary of Transportation functions, powers, and duties relating to Coast Guard, of Secretary of the Treasury and of all other officers and offices of Department of the Treasury, and which provided that notwithstanding such transfer Coast Guard shall operate as part of Navy in time of war or when President directs as provided in former section 3 (now 103) of Title 14, Coast Guard. See section 108 of Title 49, Transportation.

§ 56312. Documented defined

In sections 56309 through 56311, the term “documented” means, with respect to a vessel, that a certificate of documentation has been issued for the vessel under chapter 121.

(Added Pub. L. 115-91, div. C, title XXXV, § 3504(d), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1913.)

CHAPTER 565—ESSENTIAL VESSELS AFFECTED BY NEUTRALITY ACT

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| Sec. 56501. 56502. | Definition. Adjusting obligations and arranging maintenance. |
| 56503. 56504. | Types of adjustments and arrangements. Changes in adjustments and arrangements. |

§ 56501. Definition

In this chapter, the term “essential vessel” means a vessel that is—

(1)(A) security for a mortgage indebtedness to the United States Government; or

(B) constructed under this subtitle or required by a contract under this subtitle to be operated on a certain essential foreign trade route; and

(2) necessary in the interests of commerce and national defense to be maintained in condition for prompt use.

(Pub. L. 109-304, § 8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1656.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i> | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 56501 | 46 App.:1242a(a). | June 29, 1940, ch. 442, subd. (a), 54 Stat. 684. |

§ 56502. Adjusting obligations and arranging maintenance

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—On written application, the Secretary of Transportation may adjust obligations and arrange for maintenance of an essential vessel as provided in this chapter if the Secretary determines, after any investigation or proceeding the Secretary considers desirable, that—

(1) the operation of the vessel in the service, route, or line to which it is assigned under this subtitle, or in which it otherwise would be operated, is not—

(A) lawful under the Neutrality Act of 1939 (22 U.S.C. 441 et seq.) or a proclamation issued under that Act; or

² So in original. Probably should be followed by a comma.