

§ 51101. Policy

It is the policy of the United States that merchant marine vessels of the United States should be operated by highly trained and efficient citizens of the United States and that the United States Navy and the merchant marine of the United States should work closely together to promote the maximum integration of the total seapower forces of the United States.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1568.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
51101	46 App.:1126-1(a) (1st sentence). 46 App.:1295 (1st sentence).	Pub. L. 94-361, title VI, §603(a) (1st sentence), July 14, 1976, 90 Stat. 929. June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XIII, §1301 (1st sentence), as added Pub. L. 96-453, §2, Oct. 15, 1980, 94 Stat. 1997.

§ 51102. Definitions

In this part:

(1) ACADEMY.—The term “Academy” means the United States Merchant Marine Academy located at Kings Point, New York, and maintained under chapter 513 of this title.

(2) COST OF EDUCATION PROVIDED.—The term “cost of education provided” means the financial costs incurred by the United States Government for providing training or financial assistance to students at the Academy and the State maritime academies, including direct financial assistance, room, board, classroom academics, and other training activities.

(3) MERCHANT MARINE OFFICER.—The term “merchant marine officer” means an individual issued a license by the Coast Guard authorizing service as—

(A) a master, mate, or pilot on a documented vessel that—

- (i) is of at least 1,000 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title; and
- (ii) operates on the oceans or the Great Lakes; or

(B) an engineer officer on a documented vessel propelled by machinery of at least 4,000 horsepower.

(4) STATE MARITIME ACADEMY.—The term “State maritime academy” means—

(A) a State maritime academy or college sponsored by a State and assisted under chapter 515 of this title; and

(B) a regional maritime academy or college sponsored by a group of States and assisted under chapter 515 of this title.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1568.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
51102	46 App.:1295a.	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XIII, §1302, as added Pub. L. 96-453, §2, Oct. 15, 1980, 94 Stat. 1997; Pub. L. 97-31, §12(143), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 166; Pub. L. 104-324, title VII, §708, Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3934; Pub. L. 108-136, title XXXV, §3515(a), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1792.

The definition of “Secretary” is omitted as unnecessary because the full title is used the first time the term appears in each section.

In the definition of “merchant marine office”, the words “documented vessel” are substituted for “vessel . . . which is documented under the laws of the United States” because of the definition of “documented vessel” in 46 U.S.C. 2101, which is being moved to chapter 1 of the revised title.

In the definition of “State maritime academy”, the words “or territory of the United States” and “or territories of the United States” are omitted as unnecessary because of the definition of “State” in chapter 1 of the revised title.

§ 51103. General authority of Secretary of Transportation

(a) EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—The Secretary of Transportation may provide for the education and training of citizens of the United States for the safe and efficient operation of the merchant marine of the United States at all times, including operation as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency.

(b) PROPERTY FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may cooperate with and assist the institutions named in paragraph (2) by making vessels, fuel, shipboard equipment, and other marine equipment, owned by the United States Government and determined by the entity having custody and control of such property to be excess or surplus, available to those institutions for instructional purposes, by gift, loan, sale, lease, or charter on terms and conditions the Secretary considers appropriate. The consent of the Secretary of the Navy shall be obtained with respect to any property from National Defense Reserve Fleet vessels, if such vessels are either Ready Reserve Force vessels or other National Defense Reserve Fleet vessels determined to be of sufficient value to the Navy to warrant their further preservation and retention.

(2) INSTITUTIONS.—The institutions referred to in paragraph (1) are—

(A) the United States Merchant Marine Academy;

(B) a State maritime academy; and

(C) a nonprofit training institution or a training institution that is an instrumentality of a State, the District of Columbia, a territory or possession of the United States, or a unit of local government thereof jointly approved by the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating as offering training courses that meet Federal regulations for maritime training.

(c) ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER AGENCIES.—