

(4) on any other vessel considered by the Secretary to be necessary or appropriate or in the national interest.

(b) SEA YEAR CADETS ON CABLE SECURITY FLEET AND TANKER SECURITY FLEET VESSELS.—The Secretary shall require an operator of a vessel participating in the Maritime Security Program under chapter 531 of this title, the Cable Security Fleet under chapter 532 of this title, or the Tanker Security Fleet under chapter 534 of this title to carry on each Maritime Security Program vessel, Cable Security Fleet vessel, or Tanker Security Fleet vessel 2 United States Merchant Marine Academy cadets, if available, on each voyage.

(c) MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND VESSELS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Commander of the Military Sealift Command shall require an operator of a vessel in the United States Navy’s Military Sealift Command to carry on each such vessel 2 United States Merchant Marine Academy cadets, if available, on each voyage, if the vessel—

- (A) is flagged in the United States; and
(B) is rated at 10,000 gross tons or higher.

(2) WAIVER.—The Commander of the Military Sealift Command may waive the requirement under paragraph (1) at any time if the Commander determines that carrying a cadet from the United States Merchant Marine Academy would place an undue burden on the vessel or the operator of the vessel.

(d) DEFINITION OF OPERATOR.—In this section, the term “operator” includes a government operator and a non-government operator.

(e) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section may be construed as affecting—

- (1) the discretion of the Secretary to determine whether to place a United States Merchant Marine Academy cadet on a vessel;
(2) the authority of the Coast Guard regarding a vessel security plan approved under section 70103; or
(3) the discretion of the master of the vessel to ensure the safety of all crew members.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1574; Pub. L. 109–241, title III, §307, July 11, 2006, 120 Stat. 528; Pub. L. 110–181, div. C, title XXXV, §3525(a)(3), (b), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 600, 601; Pub. L. 115–232, div. C, title XXXV, §3512, Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 2311; Pub. L. 116–283, div. C, title XXXV, §3506, Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4405.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row 1: 51307, 46 App.:1295b(f), June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XIII, §1303(f), as added Pub. L. 96–453, §2, Oct. 15, 1980, 94 Stat. 2002.

In paragraph (2), the words “with the permission of the owner” are substituted for “if the owner . . . operates in such use” for clarity.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116–283 added subsec. (b) and struck out former subsec. (b). Prior to amendment, text

read as follows: “The Secretary shall require an operator of a vessel participating in the Maritime Security Program under chapter 531 of this title to carry on each Maritime Security Program vessel 2 United States Merchant Marine Academy cadets, if available, on each voyage.”

2018—Pub. L. 115–232, §3512(1), (3), designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and added subsecs. (b) to (e).

Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 115–232, §3512(2), substituted “owned, subsidized by, or contracted with” for “owned or subsidized by”.

2008—Pub. L. 110–181, §3525(b), repealed Pub. L. 109–241, §307. See 2006 Amendment note below.

Par. (4). Pub. L. 110–181, §3525(a)(3), incorporated the substance of the amendment by Pub. L. 109–241, §307, into this section by adding par. (4). See 2006 Amendment note below and section 18(a) of Pub. L. 109–304, set out as a Legislative Purpose and Construction note preceding section 101 of this title.

2006—Pub. L. 109–241, §307, which directed the amendment of section 1295b(f) of the former Appendix to this title from which this section was derived, was repealed by Pub. L. 110–181, §3525(b). See 2008 Amendment note for par. (4) and Historical and Revision notes above.

§ 51308. Uniforms, textbooks, and transportation allowances

The Secretary of Transportation shall provide cadets at the United States Merchant Marine Academy—

- (1) all required uniforms and textbooks; and
(2) allowances for transportation (including reimbursement of traveling expenses) when traveling under orders as a cadet.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1574.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row 1: 51308, 46 App.:1295b(d), June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XIII, §1303(d), as added Pub. L. 96–453, §2, Oct. 15, 1980, 94 Stat. 2000.

§ 51309. Academic degree

(a) BACHELOR’S DEGREE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Superintendent of the United States Merchant Marine Academy may confer the degree of bachelor of science on an individual who—

- (A) has met the conditions prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation; and
(B) if a citizen of the United States, has passed the examination for a merchant marine officer’s license.

(2) EFFECT OF PHYSICAL DISQUALIFICATION.—An individual not allowed to take the examination for a merchant marine officer’s license only because of physical disqualification may not be denied a degree for not taking the examination.

(b) MASTER’S DEGREE.—The Superintendent of the Academy may confer a master’s degree on an individual who has met the conditions prescribed by the Secretary. A master’s degree program may be funded through non-appropriated funds. To maintain the appropriate academic standards, the program shall be accredited by the appropriate accreditation body. Non-appropriated funds received for this purpose shall be credited to the Maritime Administra-