

rying a cadet from the United States Merchant Marine Academy to certify compliance of the vessel with the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (32 UST 47) and section 8106 of this title.

(2) INFORMATION FOR CADETS.—The Maritime Administrator shall ensure that the Academy informs cadets preparing for Sea Year of the obligations that vessel owners and operators have to provide for the security of individuals aboard a vessel under United States law, including chapter 81 and section 70103(c) of this title.

(b) CHECKS OF COMMERCIAL VESSELS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not less frequently than biennially, staff of the Academy or staff of the Maritime Administration shall conduct both random and targeted unannounced checks of not less than 10 percent of the commercial vessels that host a cadet from the Academy.

(2) REMOVAL OF STUDENTS.—If staff of the Academy or staff of the Maritime Administration determine that a commercial vessel is in violation of the sexual assault policy developed by the Academy through a check conducted under paragraph (1), the staff may—

- (A) remove any cadet of the Academy from the vessel; and
- (B) report the violation to the owner or operator of the vessel.

(c) MAINTENANCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT TRAINING RECORDS.—The Maritime Administrator shall require the owner or operator of a commercial vessel, or the seafarer union for a commercial vessel, to maintain records of sexual assault training for any person required to have such training.

(d) SEA YEAR SURVEY.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Maritime Administrator shall require each cadet from the Academy, upon completion of the cadet’s Sea Year, to complete a survey regarding the environment and conditions during the Sea Year of the vessel to which the cadet was assigned.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—The Maritime Administrator shall make available to the public for each year—

- (A) the questions used in the survey required by paragraph (1); and
- (B) the aggregated data received from such surveys.

(Added Pub. L. 115-91, div. C, title XXXV, § 3516(a), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1927; amended Pub. L. 115-232, div. C, title XXXV, § 3515(b), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 2312.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115-232 amended subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Maritime Administrator shall require the owner or operator of a commercial vessel, or the seafarer union for a commercial vessel, to maintain records of sexual assault training for the crew and passengers of any vessel hosting a cadet from the Academy.”

§ 51323. United States Merchant Marine Academy Advisory Council

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall establish an advisory council, to

be known as the “United States Merchant Marine Academy Advisory Council” (in this section referred to as the “Council”).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select not fewer than 8 and not more than 14 individuals to serve as members of the Council. Such individuals shall have such expertise as the Secretary determines necessary and appropriate for providing advice and guidance on improving the Academy.

(2) GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS.—The number of members of the Council who are employees of the Federal Government may not exceed the number of members of the Council who are not employees of the Federal Government.

(3) EMPLOYEE STATUS.—Members of the Council shall not be considered employees of the United States Government by reason of their membership on the Council for any purpose and shall not receive compensation other than reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem allowance in accordance with section 5703 of title 5.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Council shall provide advice to the Secretary at the time and in the manner requested by the Secretary.

(d) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—In carrying out its responsibilities under this subsection, the Council shall comply with the obligations of the Department of Transportation to protect personally identifiable information.

(Added Pub. L. 117-81, div. C, title XXXV, § 3501(c)(1), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2238.)

§ 51324. Unfilled vacancies

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the event of an unfilled vacancy for any critical position at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, the Secretary of Transportation may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that title, a qualified candidate for the purposes of filling up to 20 of such positions.

(b) CRITICAL POSITION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “critical position” means a position that contributes to the improvement of—

- (1) the culture or infrastructure of the Academy;
- (2) student health and well being;
- (3) Academy governance; or
- (4) any other priority areas identified by the Council.

(Added Pub. L. 117-81, div. C, title XXXV, § 3501(c)(1), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2238.)

CHAPTER 515—STATE MARITIME ACADEMY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Sec.	General support program.
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51503.	Use of training vessels.
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51505.	Conditions to receiving payments and use of vessels.
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 51511. Midshipman status in the Navy Reserve.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-181, div. C, title XXXV, §3523(a)(1), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 598, substituted “Navy Reserve” for “Naval Reserve” in item 51511.

§ 51501. General support program

(a) ASSISTANCE TO STATE MARITIME ACADEMIES.—The Secretary of Transportation shall cooperate with and assist State maritime academies in providing instruction to individuals to prepare them for service in the merchant marine of the United States.

(b) COURSE DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary shall provide to each State maritime academy guidance and assistance in developing courses on the operation and maintenance of new vessels, on equipment, and on innovations being introduced to the merchant marine of the United States.

(c) AMERICAN MARITIME CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—The Secretary shall designate each State maritime academy as an American Maritime Center of Excellence.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1577; Pub. L. 116-92, div. C, title XXXV, §3505, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1970.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51501(a)	46 App.:1295c(a).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XIII, §1304(a), (d)(2), as added Pub. L. 96-453, §2, Oct. 15, 1980, 94 Stat. 2003, 2004.
51501(b)	46 App.:1295c(d)(2).	

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-92 added subsec. (c).

§ 51502. Detailing of personnel

At the request of the Governor of a State, the President may detail, without reimbursement, personnel of the Navy, the Coast Guard, and the Maritime Service to a State maritime academy to serve as a superintendent, professor, lecturer, or instructor at the academy.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1577.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51502	46 App.:1295c(e).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XIII, §1304(e), as added Pub. L. 96-453, §2, Oct. 15, 1980, 94 Stat. 2004.

The reference to territories is omitted as unnecessary because of the definition of “State” in chapter 1 of the revised title.

§ 51503. Regional maritime academies

The Governors of the States cooperating to sponsor a regional maritime academy shall des-

ignate in writing one of those States to conduct the affairs of that academy. A regional maritime academy is eligible for assistance from the United States Government on the same basis as a State maritime academy sponsored by a single State.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1577.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51503	46 App.:1295c(b).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XIII, §1304(b), as added Pub. L. 96-453, §2, Oct. 15, 1980, 94 Stat. 2003.

The reference to territories is omitted as unnecessary because of the definition of “State” in chapter 1 of the revised title.

§ 51504. Use of training vessels

(a) APPLICATIONS TO USE VESSELS.—The Governor of a State sponsoring a State maritime academy (or the Governor of the State designated to conduct the affairs of a regional maritime academy) may apply in writing to the Secretary of Transportation to obtain the use of a training vessel for the academy. A vessel provided under this section remains the property of the United States Government.

(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Subject to subsection (c), the Secretary may provide to a State maritime academy, for use as a training vessel, a suitable vessel under the control of the Secretary or made available to the Secretary under subsection (e). If a suitable vessel is not available, the Secretary may build and provide a suitable vessel.

(c) APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may provide a vessel under this section only if—

- (1) an application has been made under subsection (a);
- (2) the State maritime academy satisfies section 51506(a) of this title; and
- (3) a suitable port will be available for the safe mooring of the vessel while the academy is using the vessel.

(d) PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE.—A vessel provided under this section shall be—

- (1) repaired, reconditioned, and equipped (with all apparel, charts, books, and instruments of navigation) as necessary for use as a training vessel; and
- (2) maintained in good repair by the Secretary.

(e) AGENCY VESSELS.—An agency may provide to the Secretary, for use by a State maritime academy, a vessel (including equipment) that—

- (1) is suitable for training purposes; and
- (2) can be provided without detriment to the service to which the vessel is assigned.

(f) FUEL COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall pay to each State maritime academy the costs of fuel used by a vessel provided under this section while used for training.

(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—The amount of the payment to a State maritime academy under paragraph (1) may not exceed—