

Subtitle C—Marine Transportation

SEC. 1121. SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding after chapter 555 the following:

“CHAPTER 556—SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION

“Sec. 55601. Short sea transportation program.

“Sec. 55602. Cargo and shippers.

“Sec. 55603. Interagency coordination.

“Sec. 55604. Research on short sea transportation.

“Sec. 55605. Short sea transportation defined.

“§ 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.

“(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. 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 may—

“(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.

“(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, shall develop strategies to encourage the use of short sea transportation for transportation of passengers and cargo. The Secretary shall—

“(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.

“§ 55602. Cargo and shippers

“(a) MEMORANDUMS OF AGREEMENT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall enter into memorandums of understanding with the heads of other Federal entities to transport federally owned or generated cargo using a short sea transportation project designated under section 55601 when practical or available.

“(b) SHORT-TERM INCENTIVES.—The Secretary shall consult shippers and other participants in transportation logistics and develop proposals for short-term incentives to encourage the use of short sea transportation.

“§ 55603. Interagency coordination

“The Secretary of Transportation shall establish a board to identify and seek solutions to impediments hindering effective use of short sea transportation. The board shall include representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal, State, and local governmental entities and private sector entities.

“§ 55604. Research on short sea transportation

“The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, may conduct research on short sea transportation, regarding—

“(1) the environmental and transportation benefits to be derived from short sea transportation alternatives for other forms of transportation;

“(2) technology, vessel design, and other improvements that would reduce emissions, increase fuel economy, and lower costs of short sea transportation and increase the efficiency of intermodal transfers; and

“(3) solutions to impediments to short sea transportation projects designated under section 55601.

“§ 55605. Short sea transportation defined

“In this chapter, the term ‘short sea transportation’ means the carriage by vessel of cargo—

“(1) that is—

“(A) contained in intermodal cargo containers and loaded by crane on the vessel; or

“(B) loaded on the vessel by means of wheeled technology; and

“(2) that is—

“(A) loaded at a port in the United States and unloaded either at another port in the United States or at a port

in Canada located in the Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Seaway System; or

“(B) loaded at a port in Canada located in the Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Seaway System and unloaded at a port in the United States.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters at the beginning of subtitle V of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 555 the following:

“556. Short Sea Transportation55601”.

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) INTERIM REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue temporary regulations to implement the program under this section. Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, does not apply to a temporary regulation issued under this paragraph or to an amendment to such a temporary regulation.

(2) FINAL REGULATIONS.—Not later than October 1, 2008, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue final regulations to implement the program under this section.

SEC. 1122. SHORT SEA SHIPPING ELIGIBILITY FOR CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUND.

(a) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED VESSEL.—Section 53501 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)(A)(iii) by striking “or noncontiguous domestic” and inserting “noncontiguous domestic, or short sea transportation trade”; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION TRADE.—The term ‘short sea transportation trade’ means the carriage by vessel of cargo—

“(A) that is—

“(i) contained in intermodal cargo containers and loaded by crane on the vessel; or

“(ii) loaded on the vessel by means of wheeled technology; and

“(B) that is—

“(i) loaded at a port in the United States and unloaded either at another port in the United States or at a port in Canada located in the Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Seaway System; or

“(ii) loaded at a port in Canada located in the Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Seaway System and unloaded at a port in the United States.”.

(b) ALLOWABLE PURPOSE.—Section 53503(b) of such title is amended by striking “or noncontiguous domestic trade” and inserting “noncontiguous domestic, or short sea transportation trade”.

SEC. 1123. SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

Transportation of the Senate a report on the short sea transportation program established under the amendments made by section 1121. The report shall include a description of the activities conducted under the program, and any recommendations for further legislative or administrative action that the Secretary of Transportation considers appropriate.

Subtitle D—Highways

SEC. 1131. INCREASED FEDERAL SHARE FOR CMAQ PROJECTS.

Section 120(c) of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading by striking “FOR CERTAIN SAFETY PROJECTS”;

(2) by striking “The Federal share” and inserting the following:

“(1) CERTAIN SAFETY PROJECTS.—The Federal share”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) CMAQ PROJECTS.—The Federal share payable on account of a project or program carried out under section 149 with funds obligated in fiscal year 2008 or 2009, or both, shall be not less than 80 percent and, at the discretion of the State, may be up to 100 percent of the cost thereof.”.

SEC. 1132. DISTRIBUTION OF RESCISSIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any unobligated balances of amounts that are appropriated from the Highway Trust Fund for a fiscal year, and apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act and that are rescinded in fiscal year 2008 or fiscal year 2009 shall be distributed by the Secretary of Transportation within each State (as defined in section 101 of such title) among all programs for which funds are apportioned under such chapter for such fiscal year, to the extent sufficient funds remain available for obligation, in the ratio that the amount of funds apportioned for each program under such chapter for such fiscal year, bears to the amount of funds apportioned for all such programs under such chapter for such fiscal year.

(b) ADJUSTMENTS.—A State may make adjustments to the distribution of a rescission within the State for a fiscal year under subsection (a) by transferring the amounts to be rescinded among the programs for which funds are apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, for such fiscal year, except that in making such adjustments the State may not rescind from any such program more than 110 percent of the funds to be rescinded from the program for the fiscal year as determined by the Secretary of Transportation under subsection (a).

(c) TREATMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT SET-ASIDE AND FUNDS SUBALLOCATED TO SUBSTATE AREAS.—Funds set aside under sections 133(d)(2) and 133(d)(3) of title 23, United States Code, shall be treated as being apportioned under chapter 1 of such title for purposes of subsection (a).

SEC. 1133. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING USE OF COMPLETE STREETS DESIGN TECHNIQUES.

It is the sense of Congress that in constructing new roadways or rehabilitating existing facilities, State and local governments should consider policies designed to accommodate all users,