

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2535

To enable passenger vessels that were not built in the United States to receive coastwise endorsement, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2025

Mr. LEE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To enable passenger vessels that were not built in the United States to receive coastwise endorsement, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Jobs in
5 American Ports Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COASTWISE ENDORSEMENT FOR PASSENGER VES-**
7 **SELS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12112(a)(2)(B) of title
9 46, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “; or” and insert-
2 ing a semicolon;

3 (2) in clause (iii), by striking “; and” and in-
4 serting “; or”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(iv) is a vessel that transports passengers
7 between ports or places in the United States to
8 which the coastwise laws apply, either directly
9 or via a foreign port; and”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 12121 of
11 title 46, United States Code, is repealed.

12 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the
13 amendments made by this section shall be construed to
14 exempt a vessel that transports passengers between ports
15 or places in the United States to which the coastwise laws
16 apply, either directly or via a foreign port, from any appli-
17 cable law of the United States except as explicitly provided
18 in such amendments.

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