

Public Law 96-380
96th Congress

An Act

To establish a Towing Safety Advisory Committee in the Department of Transportation.

Oct. 6, 1980

[H.R. 6242]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) there is established a Towing Safety Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee"). The Committee shall consist of sixteen members with particular expertise, knowledge, and experience regarding shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety as follows:

Towing Safety
Advisory
Committee,
establishment.
33 USC 1231a.
Membership.

- (1) seven members from the barge and towing industry, reflecting a regional geographic balance;
- (2) one member from the offshore mineral and oil supply vessel industry; and
- (3) two members from each of the following—
 - (A) port districts, authorities, or terminal operators;
 - (B) maritime labor;
 - (C) shippers (of whom at least one shall be engaged in the shipment of oil or hazardous materials by barge); and
 - (D) the general public.

(b) The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") shall appoint the members of the Committee. The Secretary shall designate one of the members of the Committee as the Chairman and one of the members as the Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall act as Chairman in the absence or incapacity of, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of, the Chairman. The Secretary may request the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Commerce to each designate a representative to participate as an observer on the Committee.

Appointments.

(c) The Committee shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the Secretary on matters relating to shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety. Any advice or recommendation made by the Committee to the Secretary shall reflect the independent judgment of the Committee on the matter concerned. The Secretary shall consult with the Committee before taking any significant action affecting shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety. The Committee shall meet at the call of the Secretary, but in any event not less than once during each calendar year. All proceedings of the Committee shall be open to the public, and a record of the proceedings shall be made available for public inspection.

Functions.

Meetings.

Public
proceedings and
record.

Administrative services.

(d) The Secretary shall furnish to the Committee an executive secretary and such secretarial, clerical, and other services as are considered necessary for the conduct of its business. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this subsection.

Termination.

(e) Unless extended by subsequent Act of Congress, the Committee shall terminate five years from the date of enactment of this Act.

Approved October 6, 1980.

Approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of Congress in Congress assembled a Joint Select Advisory Committee consisting of the Committee. The Committee shall consist of seven members with particular expertise, knowledge, and experience relating to the study and coastal waterway navigation and transportation. The members shall be as follows: (1) seven members from the large and growing industry and regional geographic business; (2) one member from the defense, mineral and energy, fiscal, and industry; (3) two members from each of the following: (A) port districts, harbors, or terminal operators; (B) maritime labor; (C) shippers for whom at least one shall be employed in the shipment of an intercoastal waterway cargo; (D) the general public. (f) The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary" shall appoint the members of the Committee. The Secretary shall designate one of the members of the Committee as the Chairman and one of the members as the Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall act as Chairman in the absence or inability of the Chairman. The Secretary may request the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Commerce to each designate a representative to participate as an observer on the Committee. (g) The Committee shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the Secretary on matters relating to shallow draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and water safety. Any matter or recommendation made by the Committee to the Secretary shall include the independent judgment of the Committee on the matter concerned. The Secretary shall consult with the Committee before taking any significant action affecting shallow draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and water safety. The Committee shall meet at the call of the Secretary, but in any event not less than once during each calendar year. All proceedings of the Committee shall be open to the public, and a record of the proceedings shall be made available for public inspection.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 126 (1980):
June 23, considered and passed House.
Sept. 23, considered and passed Senate.