

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4468

To direct the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to study and report to the Congress regarding recreational vessel operator training.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 28, 2017

Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. SUOZZI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to study and report to the Congress regarding recreational vessel operator training.

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. RECREATIONAL VESSEL OPERATOR EDU-**  
4 **CATION AND TRAINING.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the depart-  
7 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating shall study  
8 and report to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-  
9 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-

1 mittees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the  
2 Senate regarding recreational vessel operator training.

3 The study and report shall included a review of—

4 (1) Coast Guard Auxiliary and Power Squadron  
5 training programs;

6 (2) existing State boating education programs,  
7 including programs by the National Association of  
8 State Boating Law Administrators (in this section  
9 referred to as “NASBLA”); and

10 (3) other hands-on training programs available  
11 to recreational vessel operators.

12 (b) INCLUDED SUBJECTS.—The study shall specifi-  
13 cally examine—

14 (1) course materials;

15 (2) course content;

16 (3) training methodology;

17 (4) assessment methodology; and

18 (5) relevancy of course content to risks for rec-  
19 reational boaters.

20 (c) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report under this  
21 section shall include—

22 (1) a section regarding steps the Coast Guard  
23 and NASBLA have taken to encourage States to  
24 adopt mandatory recreational vessel operator train-  
25 ing;

1           (2) an evaluation of the ability of the States to  
2 harmonize their education programs and testing pro-  
3 cedures;

4           (3) an analysis of the extent States have pro-  
5 vided reciprocity among the States for their respec-  
6 tive mandatory and voluntary education require-  
7 ments and programs;

8           (4) a section examining the level of uniformity  
9 of education and training between the States that  
10 currently have mandatory education and training  
11 programs;

12           (5) a section outlining the minimum standards  
13 for education of recreational vessel operators;

14           (6) a section analyzing how a Federal training  
15 and testing program can be harmonized with State  
16 training and testing programs;

17           (7) analysis of course content and delivery  
18 methodology for relevancy to risks for recreational  
19 boaters;

20           (8) a description of the current phase-in periods  
21 for mandatory boater education in State mandatory  
22 education programs and recommendation for the  
23 phase-in period for a mandatory boater education  
24 program including an evaluation as to whether the  
25 phase-in period affects course availability and cost;

1           (9) a description of the extent States allow for  
2           experienced boaters to by-pass mandatory education  
3           courses and go directly to testing;

4           (10) recommendations for a by-pass option for  
5           experienced boaters;

6           (11) a section analyzing how the Coast Guard  
7           would administer a Federal boating education, train-  
8           ing, and testing program; and

9           (12) the extent to which a Federal boating edu-  
10          cation, training, and testing program should be re-  
11          quired for all waters of a State, including internal  
12          waters.

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