At the end of subtitle F of title V (page 227, after line 19), add the following new section:

SEC. 5. MARINER TRAINING.

Section 2015 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

“(d) SPECIAL RULES FOR MARINER DUTIES.—(1) The program required by subsection (a) shall ensure to the greatest extent practicable that—

“(A) members of the armed forces whose duties are primarily as a mariner receive training opportunities necessary to meet the requirements for licenses, certificates of registry, and merchant mariners’ documents issued under part E of subtitle II of title 46, and to acquire a Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping
for Seafarers endorsement to such licenses and documents;

“(B) such members assigned to a vessel’s deck and engineering departments have a designated path to meet the requirements for such licenses, documents, and endorsement commensurate with their positional responsibilities;

“(C) courses in marine navigation, leadership, operation, and maintenance taken while such a member is in the armed forces are submitted to the National Maritime Center for use in assessments of the fulfillment by the member of the requirements for receiving such licenses, documents, and endorsement; and

“(D) such members in the deck and engineering departments have the opportunity to attend merchant mariner credentialing programs that meet training requirements not offered by the armed forces.

“(2) The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall ensure that any assessment of the training and experience of an applicant who is or has been a member of the armed forces is conducted with-
out any limitation related to the member’s military pay grade.”.