

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-8
OFFERED BY MR. WEBSTER OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle D of title XXXV, add the following:

1 **SEC. 35____. IMPROVEMENTS TO FINANCING PROCEDURES**
2 **FOR MERCHANT MARINE FINANCIAL ASSIST-**
3 **ANCE PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 53701 of title 46, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(16) DUAL USE VESSEL.—The term ‘dual use
8 vessel’ means a vessel with the capacity to serve
9 both civilian commercial, and Navy and Coast Guard
10 uses, that meets characteristics determined by the
11 Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of
12 Defense and the Secretary of the Department in
13 which the Coast Guard is operating when it is not
14 operating as a service in the Department of the
15 Navy, as described in section 53703(e).

16 “(17) SMALL SHIPYARD.—The term ‘small
17 shipyard’ means a shipyard facility in one geo-

1 graphic location that does not have more than 1,200
2 employees.

3 “(18) MEDIUM-SIZED SHIPYARD.—The term
4 ‘medium-sized shipyard’ means a shipyard facility in
5 one geographic location that has more than 1,200
6 employees and does not have more than 2,400 em-
7 ployees.”.

8 (b) APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION.—Section
9 53703 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
11 following:

12 “(3) PUBLICATION OF ESTIMATED
13 TIMELINES.—In order to enhance predictability and
14 financial planning, the Administrator shall publish
15 and maintain estimated timelines for review of appli-
16 cations for loan guarantees under this chapter based
17 on project size and application stage.”; and

18 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
19 sections:

20 “(e) DUAL USE VESSELS.—

21 “(1) LIST OF DUAL USE VESSEL TYPES.—

22 “(A) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator,
23 in consultation with the Secretary of Defense
24 and the Secretary of the Department in which
25 the Coast Guard is operating when it is not op-

1 erating as a service in the Department of the
2 Navy, shall develop and publish a list of vessel
3 types that are dual use vessels, which shall be
4 reviewed and revised at least once every four
5 years, as determined by the Administrator.

6 “(B) DUAL USE VESSELS.—Dual use ves-
7 sel types on the list under subparagraph (A)
8 may include small tankers, small container
9 ships, breakbulk cargo vessels, tugboats, cable
10 lay vessels, articulated tug-barges, offshore sup-
11 port vessels, high-speed ferries and passenger
12 vessels, liquified natural gas bunker barges, and
13 fueling support vessels. The list shall include
14 examples of the civilian commercial and Navy
15 and Coast Guard uses to which each vessel type
16 may be applied.

17 “(f) STANDARDIZED DESIGNS LIBRARY.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
19 tablish a library of standard commercial vessel de-
20 signs that meet eligibility standards under this chap-
21 ter and applicable regulatory standards. A design in
22 the library shall be deemed to qualify for initial engi-
23 neering review of applications for guarantees for fi-
24 nancing of purposes described in section
25 53706(a)(1).

1 “(2) SOURCING; PREFERENCE.—In establishing
2 the design library under paragraph (1), the Adminis-
3 trator—

4 “(A) may be source designs from public
5 ferry agencies, United States Army Corps of
6 Engineers specifications, or designs previously
7 approved for guarantees under this chapter;
8 and

9 “(B) shall give preference to designs for
10 vessels that are dual use vessels.

11 “(g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM.—

12 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Subject
13 to the availability of appropriations, the Adminis-
14 trator shall execute agreements to provide technical
15 assistance in the form of grants to prospective appli-
16 cants in connection with proposed applications for
17 guarantees for financing of purposes described in
18 paragraphs (1) and (8) of section 53706(a).

19 “(2) AWARDS.—In providing assistance under
20 the program, the Administrator shall give priority to
21 applications for projects to be conducted at small-
22 and medium-sized shipyards.

23 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Assistance provided
24 under this section may be used for—

25 “(A) feasibility studies;

1 “(B) environmental compliance, including
2 reviews under the National Environmental Pol-
3 icy Act;

4 “(C) financial structuring and loan pack-
5 aging; and

6 “(D) such other purposes as the Adminis-
7 trator may determine, consistent with the pur-
8 poses of the program.

9 “(4) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than
10 two percent of amounts made available to carry out
11 the program may be used for the necessary costs of
12 grant administration.

13 “(h) BATCH PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS USING
14 SHARED DESIGNS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
16 tablish a process for batch processing of applications
17 for guarantees for financing of purposes described in
18 section 53706(a)(1) to be conducted at small- and
19 medium-sized shipyards that include a shared design
20 for the vessels included in such applications.

21 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each application in-
22 cluded in a batch for processing under paragraph
23 (1) shall remain subject to the requirements of sec-
24 tions 53703(b), 53707, and 53708.

1 “(i) SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED SHIPYARD LIAISON
2 OFFICE.—The Administrator shall establish a Financing
3 Support Desk within the Maritime Administration to pro-
4 vide technical guidance, early feedback, coordination, and
5 other assistance to applicants for guarantees for financing
6 of purposes described in paragraphs (1) and (8) of section
7 53706(a) to be conducted at small- and medium-sized
8 shipyards.

9 “(j) TIERED APPLICATION TRACKS BASED ON LOAN
10 SIZE.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
12 tablish procedures under a small project track for
13 guarantees for loans under the amount of
14 \$100,000,000, with scaled documentation and
15 streamlined review timelines.

16 “(2) FINANCIAL VETTING.—The procedures es-
17 tablished under paragraph (1) shall maintain full fi-
18 nancial vetting while aligning paperwork and audit
19 requirements to project size.

20 “(k) PREQUALIFICATION PHASE FOR APPLICA-
21 TIONS.—The Administrator shall establish procedures
22 under which applicants for guarantees under this chapter
23 may apply for and receive findings under section 53707
24 related to obligors and operators and section 53708 re-
25 lated to economic soundness prior to preparing and sub-

1 mitting engineering and compliance studies and docu-
2 mentation in connection with an application.”.

3 (c) DUAL USE PRIORITY.—Section 53706(c)(1) of
4 title 46, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “and”
6 at the end;

7 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-
8 paragraph (D);

9 (3) by inserting the following new subparagraph
10 after subparagraph (B):

11 “(C) after applying subparagraphs (A) and
12 (B), dual use vessels; and”; and

13 (4) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by
14 striking “subparagraphs (A) and (B)” and inserting
15 “subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C)”.

