

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Commandant of the Coast Guard to modify regulations relating to vessel response plans to include notifications with respect to search and rescue missions.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. KENNEDY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To require the Commandant of the Coast Guard to modify regulations relating to vessel response plans to include notifications with respect to search and rescue missions.

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 “Vessel Response Plan  
5 Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SEARCH AND RESCUE NOTIFICATION REQUIRE-**  
2 **MENTS FOR VESSEL RESPONSE PLANS OF**  
3 **COAST GUARD-APPROVED COMMERCIAL VES-**  
4 **SELS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast  
6 Guard shall modify subparts I and J of part 155 of title  
7 33, Code of Federal Regulations, to require the vessel re-  
8 sponse plans of Coast Guard-approved tank and nontank  
9 commercial vessels to include the procedures described in  
10 subsection (b) for use by the Coast Guard in the case of  
11 a search and rescue mission.

12 (b) PROCEDURES.—The procedures described in this  
13 subsection are as follows:

14 (1) A procedure for providing, not less fre-  
15 quently than twice daily for the duration of a search  
16 and rescue mission, notifications to family members  
17 of the crew of the vessel with respect to the status  
18 of the search and rescue mission, any injured crew  
19 member, and salvage.

20 (2) A procedure for the immediate notification  
21 of the next of kin or family members in the case  
22 of—

23 (A) a deceased crew member; or

24 (B) the recovery of a survivor or the body  
25 of a crew member during such a search and  
26 rescue mission.