

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3272

To prioritize icebreaker deployments to the Arctic, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 29, 2021

Mr. SULLIVAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To prioritize icebreaker deployments to the Arctic, and for other purposes.

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 “Arctic Focus Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-

8 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-

9 mittees” means—

10 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,

11 and Transportation of the Senate;

1 (B) the Committee on Armed Services of
2 the Senate;

3 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of
4 the Senate;

5 (D) the Committee on Transportation and
6 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

7 (E) the Committee on Armed Services of
8 the House of Representatives; and

9 (F) the Committee on Appropriations of
10 the House of Representatives.

11 (2) ARCTIC.—The term “Arctic” has the mean-
12 ing given such term in section 112 of the Arctic Re-
13 search and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).

14 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING ARCTIC AC-**
15 **TIVITIES.**

16 In recognition of the Arctic’s strategic importance to
17 the national security interests of the United States, and
18 the need to exert influence through persistent presence in
19 the Arctic, the Coast Guard shall—

20 (1) prioritize icebreaker deployments to the
21 Arctic so that Antarctic deployments do not occur at
22 the expense of sufficient Arctic presence or oper-
23 ations;

24 (2) provide sufficient icebreaking activity to
25 keep the Northwest Passage sea lanes open for com-

1 merce, national defense, rescue and recovery oper-
 2 ations, and scientific exploration by 2030;

3 (3) permanently station at least 1 icebreaking
 4 vessel within the Arctic not later than the earlier
 5 of—

6 (A) the date that is 1 year after the deliv-
 7 ery of the first Polar Security Cutter; or

8 (B) 2030; and

9 (4) continuously patrol the Arctic with at least
 10 1 major Coast Guard cutter that is able to execute
 11 search and rescue operations, fisheries enforcement,
 12 pollution response, and support for national defense
 13 operations.

14 **SEC. 4. ARCTIC OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.**

15 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
 16 of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the
 17 Coast Guard is operating shall submit a report to the ap-
 18 propriate congressional committees that—

19 (1) describes the ability and timeline to conduct
 20 a transit of the Northern Sea Route and periodic
 21 transits of the Northwest Passage; and

22 (2) includes a plan to implement the activities
 23 described in section 3.

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