

The Oil Spill Response Review Act of 2022

Section-by-Section

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Oil Spill Response Act of 2022”.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS.

This section lists the findings of Congress regarding the environmental threats caused by oil spills and the insufficient review process for oil spill response plans.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

This section defines terms related to personnel and planning used throughout the Act.

SECTION 4. INCREASING DATA COLLECTION AND VERIFICATION TO UPDATE THE VRP PROGRAM.

This section directs the Coast Guard to develop and implement a program to improve oil spill response by periodically reviewing and auditing vessel response plans (VRPs), oil spill response drills, and responses to oil spill incidents that require the mobilization of contracted resources. The program would also require annual review and updates to the Coast Guard Response Resource Inventory and other Coast Guard tools used to document the availability of oil spill response equipment to ensure that such information remains current. It would require procedures for incorporating oil spill incident and exercise data into VRPs, alternative planning criteria, and area contingency plans (ACPs), as well as for minimizing any impact of Coast Guard field unit rotation on awareness of VRP requirements and evaluating the consequences of inaccurate reporting. The Coast Guard would be responsible for developing tools, training, and guidance to share with vessel operators and Cost Guard field units to consider alternative response plans, and for reviewing subcontracts to make sure response equipment and resources are ready to satisfy any VRP needs. Finally, this section would require the Coast Guard to review and revise oil spill response strategies at least every five years, based on incident data and exercises, and to publish an annual report on plans to improve the VRP program.

SECTION 5. EXPENDITURE PURPOSES OF OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND.

This section would amend section 9509 of title 26, U.S. Code, by expanding the purposes of the Oil Spill Liability trust Fund, enabling funds to go toward oil spill incident data collection and verification, regular updates to VRPs, and training and equipping Tribal and remote communities with resources and information for oil spill planning, preparedness, and response.

SECTION 6. NATIONAL OIL SPILL RESPONSE STUDY.

This section directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study with the Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency to assess lessons learned, best practices and potential changes to national, regional, and local area oil spill response frameworks.