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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

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.