

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 140

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Urges U.S. Coast Guard to replace steel channel markers on NJ Intracoastal Waterway on timely basis and urges Congress to appropriate funds therefor.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/9/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Coast Guard
2 to monitor the condition of, and replace on a timely basis, the
3 steel channel markers along the New Jersey Intracoastal
4 Waterway, and urging Congress to appropriate the necessary
5 funds therefor.
6
7 **WHEREAS,** The New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway stretches over 102
8 nautical miles from Manasquan Inlet to the western entrance to the
9 Cape May Canal on the Delaware Bay, passing through marshes
10 and small bays and connecting the northern reaches of Barnegat
11 Bay to Cape May Harbor and ultimately the Delaware Bay; and
12 **WHEREAS,** The New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway is part of the
13 3,000-mile Intracoastal Waterway that extends from Boston,
14 Massachusetts to the southern tip of Florida along the Atlantic
15 seaboard; and
16 **WHEREAS,** The New Jersey section of the Intracoastal Waterway is a
17 highly trafficked segment of the Intracoastal Waterway that is
18 critically important to commerce, recreation, and navigation along
19 the Atlantic Coast; and
20 **WHEREAS,** There are approximately 300 channel markers in the New
21 Jersey section of the Intracoastal Waterway which boaters depend
22 on for safe travel along the waterway; and
23 **WHEREAS,** The United States Coast Guard is responsible for the
24 maintenance of these markers, and, a lack of funding has often
25 delayed or prevented the needed maintenance, including replacing
26 old markers and buoys; and
27 **WHEREAS,** The steel channel markers are in salt water that degrades
28 the steel over time requiring continuous maintenance, replacement,
29 and repair supported by reliable on-going funding to prevent the
30 markers from becoming hazards to the health, safety, and welfare of
31 boaters and the public; and
32 **WHEREAS,** In response to the sinking of several boats, injuries to boat
33 passengers, and damage to boats attributed to the disrepair of
34 channel markers, the United States Coast Guard repaired and
35 replaced numerous steel channel markers on the Intracoastal
36 Waterway in December 2019; and
37 **WHEREAS,** The United States Coast Guard is frustrated in its efforts to
38 perform timely maintenance, replacement, and repair of the steel
39 channel markers and buoys because of the lack of sufficient and
40 consistent funding for personnel and vessels to accomplish the
41 work; and
42 **WHEREAS,** Any assistance in this regard that Congress can provide on
43 an on-going basis would be appreciated by the United States Coast
44 Guard and the men and women who strive to serve effectively in
45 the Coast Guard to reduce or eliminate safety issues in the
46 Intracoastal Waterway; and
47 **WHEREAS,** The New Jersey Legislature's request for adequate funding
48 from Congress for this purpose is important, crucial, and

1 appropriate because the New Jersey section of the Intracoastal
2 Waterway is one of the busiest segments of the Intracoastal
3 Waterway, and the safety of the public in the waterway should be of
4 tantamount importance to the State, the United States Coast Guard,
5 and the federal government; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Congress can ensure the safety of boaters along the
7 Intracoastal Waterway by appropriating funds to the United States
8 Coast Guard for the continuous maintenance and replacement of old
9 buoys and disintegrated and disintegrating channel markers; now,
10 therefore,

11
12 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
13 Jersey:

14
15 1. This House respectfully urges Congress to appropriate the
16 necessary funds to enable the United States Coast Guard to
17 completely replace any broken, rotted, or worn out steel channel
18 markers and buoys on the New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway, and to
19 continue to do so on in a timely manner.

20
21 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
22 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
23 President and Vice President of the United States, the Commandant
24 of the United States Coast Guard, and to every member of Congress
25 elected from this State.

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27
28 STATEMENT

29
30 This resolution urges Congress to appropriate the necessary
31 funds to enable the United States Coast Guard to completely replace
32 any broken, rotted, or worn out steel channel markers and buoys on
33 the New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway, and to continue to do so on
34 in a timely manner.

35 Several boats sank in the New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway in
36 2019 because the steel channel markers on buoys had rotted, broken
37 off, and remained below the surface. The United States Coast
38 Guard is responsible for the repair and management of the markers.
39 Although the United States Coast Guard replaced a number of the
40 markers and buoys in December 2019, according to local reports,
41 there is insufficient, consistent funding to allow for the timely
42 replacement of the markers and buoys on an on-going basis.

43 This resolution reflects the concern that insufficient attention is
44 being paid to the safety of the public using the New Jersey
45 Intracoastal Waterway, one of the busiest segments of the
46 Intracoastal Waterway in the country. The replacement and the
47 funding of the markers and buoys are very important for New

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- 1 Jersey and the safety of hundreds of boaters using the New Jersey
- 2 Intracoastal Waterway.