

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1640

To amend chapter 13 of title 17, United States Code (relating to the vessel hull design protection), to clarify the definitions of a hull and a deck.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2007

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend chapter 13 of title 17, United States Code (relating to the vessel hull design protection), to clarify the definitions of a hull and a deck.

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. VESSEL HULL DESIGN PROTECTION.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the  
5 “Vessel Hull Design Protection Amendments of 2007”.

6 (b) **DESIGNS PROTECTED.**—Section 1301(a) of title  
7 17, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph  
8 (2) and inserting the following:

1           “(2) VESSEL FEATURES.—The design of a ves-  
2           sel hull, deck, or combination of a hull and deck, in-  
3           cluding a plug or mold, is subject to protection  
4           under this chapter, notwithstanding section  
5           1302(4).”.

6           (c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1301(b) of title 17,  
7           United States Code, is amended—

8           (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “vessel hull,  
9           including a plug or mold,” and inserting “vessel hull  
10          or deck, including a plug or mold,”;

11          (2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the  
12          following:

13               “(4) A ‘hull’ is the exterior frame or body of a  
14               vessel, exclusive of the deck, superstructure, masts,  
15               sails, yards, rigging, hardware, fixtures, and other  
16               attachments.”; and

17          (3) by adding at the end the following:

18               “(7) A ‘deck’ is the horizontal surface of a ves-  
19               sel that covers the hull, including exterior cabin and  
20               cockpit surfaces, and exclusive of masts, sails, yards,  
21               rigging, hardware, fixtures, and other attachments.”.

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