

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 321

To allow for a contract for operation of Melville Hall at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, after receipt of a gift from the United States Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association and Foundation, Inc., for renovation of such hall and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. JOLLY) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

## A BILL

To allow for a contract for operation of Melville Hall at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, after receipt of a gift from the United States Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association and Foundation, Inc., for renovation of such hall 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 “U.S. Merchant Marine  
5 Academy Improvement Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. MELVILLE HALL OF UNITED STATES MERCHANT**  
2 **MARINE ACADEMY.**

3 (a) GIFT TO THE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY.—  
4 The Maritime Administrator may accept a gift of money  
5 from the Foundation under section 51315 of title 46,  
6 United States Code, for the purpose of renovating Melville  
7 Hall on the campus of the United States Merchant Marine  
8 Academy.

9 (b) COVERED GIFTS.—A gift described in this sub-  
10 section is a gift under subsection (a) that the Maritime  
11 Administrator determines exceeds the sum of—

12 (1) the minimum amount that is sufficient to  
13 ensure the renovation of Melville Hall in accordance  
14 with the capital improvement plan of the United  
15 States Merchant Marine Academy that was in effect  
16 on the date of enactment of this Act; and

17 (2) 25 percent of the amount described in para-  
18 graph (1).

19 (c) OPERATION CONTRACTS.—Subject to subsection  
20 (d), in the case that the Maritime Administrator accepts  
21 a gift of money described in subsection (b), the Maritime  
22 Administrator may enter into a contract with the Founda-  
23 tion for the operation of Melville Hall to make available  
24 facilities for, among other possible uses, official academy  
25 functions, third-party catering functions, and industry  
26 events and conferences.

1 (d) CONTRACT TERMS.—The contract described in  
2 subsection (c) shall be for such period and on such terms  
3 as the Maritime Administrator considers appropriate, in-  
4 cluding a provision, mutually agreeable to the Maritime  
5 Administrator and the Foundation, that—

6 (1) requires the Foundation—

7 (A) at the expense solely of the Foundation  
8 through the term of the contract to maintain  
9 Melville Hall in a condition that is as good as  
10 or better than the condition Melville Hall was  
11 in on the later of—

12 (i) the date that the renovation of  
13 Melville Hall was completed; or

14 (ii) the date that the Foundation ac-  
15 cepted Melville Hall after it was tendered  
16 to the Foundation by the Maritime Admin-  
17 istrator; and

18 (B) to deposit all proceeds from the oper-  
19 ation of Melville Hall, after expenses necessary  
20 for the operation and maintenance of Melville  
21 Hall, into the account of the Regimental Affairs  
22 Non-Appropriated Fund Instrumentality or suc-  
23 cessor entity, to be used solely for the morale  
24 and welfare of the cadets of the United States  
25 Merchant Marine Academy; and

1           (2) prohibits the use of Melville Hall as lodging  
2           or an office by any person for more than 4 days in  
3           any calendar year other than—

4                   (A) by the United States; or

5                   (B) for the administration and operation of  
6           Melville Hall.

7           (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8                   (1) CONTRACT.—The term “contract” includes  
9           any modification, extension, or renewal of the con-  
10          tract.

11                  (2) FOUNDATION.—In this section, the term  
12          “Foundation” means the United States Merchant  
13          Marine Academy Alumni Association and Founda-  
14          tion, Inc.

15          (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
16          tion may be construed under section 3105 of title 41,  
17          United States Code, as requiring the Maritime Adminis-  
18          trator to award a contract for the operation of Melville  
19          Hall to the Foundation.

○