

Public Law 96-325  
96th Congress

An Act

To amend the Shipping Act, 1916, to exempt collective bargaining and related agreements from regulation by the Federal Maritime Commission.

Aug. 8, 1980

[H.R. 6613]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. That this Act may be cited as the "Maritime Labor Agreements Act of 1980".

SEC. 2. Section 1 of the Shipping Act, 1916 (46 U.S.C. 801) is amended by adding, at the end of that section, the following:

"The term 'maritime labor agreement' means any collective bargaining agreement between an employer subject to this Act, or group of such employers and a labor organization representing employees in the maritime or stevedoring industry, or any agreement preparatory to such a collective bargaining agreement among members of a multiemployer bargaining group, or any agreement specifically implementing provisions of such a collective bargaining agreement or providing for the formation, financing, or administration of a multiemployer bargaining group."

SEC. 3. The first paragraph of section 15 of the Shipping Act, 1916 (46 U.S.C. 814) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 15. Every common carrier by water, or other person subject to this Act, shall file immediately with the Commission a true copy, or, if oral, a true and complete memorandum, of every agreement with another such carrier or other person subject to this Act, or modification or cancellation thereof, to which it may be a party or conform in whole or in part, fixing or regulating transportation rates or fares; giving or receiving special rates, accommodations, or other special privileges or advantages; controlling, regulating, preventing, or destroying competition; pooling or apportioning earnings, losses, or traffic; allotting ports or restricting or otherwise regulating the number and character of sailings between ports; limiting or regulating in any way the volume or character of freight or passenger traffic to be carried; or in any manner providing for an exclusive, preferential, or cooperative working arrangement. The term 'agreement' in this section includes understandings, conferences, and other arrangements, but does not include maritime labor agreements or any provisions of such agreements, unless such provisions provide for an assessment agreement described in the fifth paragraph of this section."

SEC. 4. Section 15 of the Shipping Act, 1916, as amended, is further amended by inserting between the fourth and fifth paragraphs thereof, the following new paragraph:

"Assessment agreements, whether part of a collective bargaining agreement or negotiated separately, to the extent they provide for the funding of collectively bargained fringe benefit obligations on other than a uniform man-hour basis, regardless of the cargo handled or type of vessel or equipment utilized, shall be deemed approved upon filing with the Commission. The Commission shall thereafter, upon complaint filed within 2 years of the date of filing of the agreement, disapprove, cancel, or modify any such agreement, or charge or

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46 USC 842 note.  
"Maritime labor agreement."

Filing of common carrier contracts.

"Agreement."

Assessment agreements.  
46 USC 814.

Complaint filing.

Decision.  
Complaint  
proceeding.

assessment pursuant thereto, that it finds, after notice and hearing, to be unjustly discriminatory or unfair as between carriers, shippers, or ports, or to operate to the detriment of the commerce of the United States. The Commission shall issue its final decision in any such complaint proceeding within 1 year of the date of filing of the complaint. To the extent that any assessment or charge is found, in such a complaint proceeding, to be unjustly discriminatory or unfair as between carriers, shippers, or ports, the Commission shall remedy the unjust discrimination or unfairness for the period of time between the filing of the complaint and the final decision by means of assessment adjustments. Such adjustments shall be implemented by prospective credits or debits to future assessments or charges, except in the case of a complainant who has ceased activities subject to the assessment or charge, in which case reparation may be awarded. To the extent that any provision of this paragraph conflicts with the language of section 22 or any other section of this Act, or of the Intercoastal Shipping Act, 1933, the provisions of this paragraph shall control in any matter involving assessment agreements described herein."

46 USC 821.  
46 USC 848.

SEC. 5. Section 45 of the Shipping Act, 1916 (46 U.S.C. 842), and all references thereto, is redesignated section 46 and a new section is added as follows:

46 USC 841c.  
46 USC 848.

"SEC. 45. The provisions of this Act and of the Intercoastal Shipping Act, 1933, shall not apply to maritime labor agreements and all provisions of such agreements except to the extent that such provisions provide for the funding of collectively bargained fringe benefit obligations on other than a uniform man-hour basis, regardless of the cargo handled or type of vessel or equipment utilized. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, nothing in this section shall be construed as providing an exemption from the provisions of this Act or of the Intercoastal Shipping Act, 1933, for any rates, charges, regulations, or practices of a common carrier by water or other person subject to this Act which are required to be set forth in a tariff, whether or not such rates, charges, regulations, or practices arise out of, or are otherwise related to a maritime labor agreement."

Exemptions.

Reparation  
claims.  
46 USC 841c  
note.

SEC. 6. The changes made to existing laws by the provisions of this Act shall not affect any claims for reparation, if any, based upon conduct occurring prior to the date of enactment of this Act or formal Commission proceedings commenced prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

Approved August 8, 1980.

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 96-876 (Comm. on Merchant Marine and Fisheries).  
SENATE REPORT No. 96-854 (Comm. on Commerce, Science, and Transportation).  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 126 (1980):

Apr. 15, considered and passed House.  
July 24, considered and passed Senate, amended.  
July 30, House concurred in Senate amendments.