

MISSION

The bill includes funding for alteration of bridges deemed a hazard to marine navigation pursuant to the Truman-Hobbs Act. The purpose of these alterations is to improve the safety of marine navigation under the bridge rather than the improvement of surface transportation on the bridge itself.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$12,000,000 for Alteration of Bridges, \$12,000,000 above the amount requested and \$4,000,000 below the amount provided in fiscal year 2008. The Committee directs funding to ongoing projects as follows: \$5,000,000 for the Fourteen Mile Bridge, Mobile, Alabama; \$5,000,000 for the Galveston Causeway Bridge, Galveston, Texas; and \$2,000,000 for the Burlington Northern Railway Bridge in Burlington, Iowa.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

Appropriation, fiscal year 2008	\$25,000,000
Budget estimate, fiscal year 2009	16,000,000
Recommended in the bill	16,000,000
Bill compared with:	
Appropriation, fiscal year 2008	-9,000,000
Budget Estimate, fiscal year 2009	0

MISSION

The purpose of Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation is to allow Coast Guard to maintain its non-homeland security research and development capability, while also partnering with DHS and the Department of Defense to leverage beneficial initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$16,000,000 for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, the same as the amount requested and \$9,000,000 below the amount provided in fiscal year 2008. Funding is directed to priority research in the following areas: aquatic nuisance species control; validation testing of the protocol for the evaluation of ballast water treatment technologies; oil spill response; and new technology assessments, including UAV.

BALLAST WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Aquatic invasive species are transported easily within ballast water carried by ships from foreign waters. Any ship sailing from a foreign port is required to exchange ballast water outside of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone prior to calling at a U.S. port. This method has proven insufficient in preventing aquatic invasive species from entering U.S. waters as sediment remains in the ballasts even after the exchange and such sediment can still contain nuisance species. The Committee is aware of ballast water treatment system testing being done by a number of entities, including through the Great Ships Initiative. The Committee urges Coast Guard to work with these entities to test the efficacy of such system systems and methods in both salt and fresh water and includes \$2,000,000 for this effort.