

PAY OUR COAST GUARD ACT

The [Pay Our Coast Guard Act](#) (Senate Bill 802) is proposed federal legislation designed to guarantee uninterrupted pay and benefits for U.S. Coast Guard military and civilian personnel during a government shutdown or funding lapse.

Key Details of the Bill

- **Purpose:** It provides automatic, continuing appropriations for the Coast Guard whenever funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) lapses, matching the pay protections already afforded to the Department of Defense (DOD).
- **Covered Expenses:** The funding secures active-duty military pay, housing allowances (BAH), death gratuities, and essential civilian or contractor pay.
- **Status:** Introduced during the 119th Congress (2025–2026), the bill serves as a proposed legislative fix to prevent Coast Guardsmen from working without a paycheck during political gridlock over DHS budgets.

Why It Is Needed

- **Funding Structure:** Unlike the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps—whose military budgets are handled through the Department of Defense—the Coast Guard falls under the Department of Homeland Security.
- **The Gap:** When DHS funding stalls or faces a shutdown while DOD is already funded, Coast Guard members face delayed paychecks and financial strain even though they perform core national security and search-and-rescue duties