

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 244**

1 A resolution to urge the President and the Congress of the
2 United States to declare the waters of the Straits of Mackinac as
3 "designated" for purposes of Great Lakes commercial ship pilotage.

4 Whereas, The Great Lakes are integral to Michigan's
5 environment, economic development, and recreation; and

6 Whereas, The federal Great Lakes Pilotage Act of 1960
7 established two distinct categories of pilotage on the Great Lakes
8 - designated waters and undesignated waters - and authorized the
9 President of the United States to determine designated waters. In
10 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower declared designated waters on
11 the Great Lakes, including all United States waters of the St.
12 Marys River, the Soo Locks, and approaches thereto. There have been
13 no significant changes in designated waters since that time; and

14 Whereas, The act requires both United States and foreign-



1 flagged vessels sailing in designated waters to be under the
2 navigational direction of a United States or Canadian registered
3 pilot to ensure marine safety and effective use of navigable
4 waters. Further, foreign-flagged vessels operating in undesignated
5 waters on the Great Lakes must have a United States or Canadian
6 registered pilot on board to direct the navigation of the vessel or
7 be available to assist in navigation if necessary; and

8 Whereas, Pilotage of foreign-flagged vessels on the Great
9 Lakes is an important function provided by individuals with years
10 of experience sailing on the largest freshwater sea in the world.
11 Pilots are charged with the safety of the vessel and boating public
12 as well as protection of infrastructure and the environment; and

13 Whereas, The Straits of Mackinac, an environmentally sensitive
14 area of great importance to the entire Great Lakes ecosystem, is an
15 undesignated water. The Straits are often congested with commercial
16 and recreational vessel traffic. Additionally, the area has
17 restricted visibility, narrow waterways, and important
18 infrastructure including the Mackinac Bridge and pipelines
19 contributing to the unique navigational challenges that exist in
20 the Straits of Mackinac; now, therefore, be it

21 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
22 President and the Congress of the United States to declare the
23 waters of the Straits of Mackinac as "designated" for purposes of
24 Great Lakes commercial ship pilotage; and be it further

25 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
26 President of the United States, the President of the United States
27 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
28 the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the
29 Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.



