



Loran Lines

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Newsletter of the International Loran Association

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Appropriation for Loran-C modernization approved by Congress

RESPONDING to the strong support provided by the user community for a viable and up-to-date Loran-C system, the U.S. House of Representatives on October 6 approved the Conference report to accompany H.R. 4475. The Department of Transportation Appropriations Bill including US \$25 million for Loran modernization in 2001, passed by a vote of 344 to 50. The Senate also approved the measure 78 to 10. The measure was sent to the White House where it is expected the President will sign it in the near future.

The original text of the U.S. Coast Guard Authorization (H.R. 820) as passed in July contained the following statutory provision:

Sec. 103. LORAN-C

(a) **Fiscal Year 2001.** There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Transportation, in addition to funds authorized for the Coast Guard for the operation of the Loran-C system, for capital expenses related to LORAN-C navigation infrastructure, \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2001. The Secretary of Transportation may transfer from the Federal Aviation Administration and other agencies of the department funds appropriated as authorized under this section in order to reimburse the Coast Guard for related expenses.

(a) **Fiscal Year 2002.** There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Transportation, in addition to funds authorized for the Coast Guard for the operation of the Loran-C system, for capital expenses related to LORAN-C navigation infrastructure, \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2002. The Secretary of Transportation may transfer from the Federal Aviation Administration and other agencies of the department funds appropriated as authorized under this section in order to reimburse the Coast Guard for related expenses.

The related report language (S. Rpt. 106-300) follows:

LORAN-C: Authority is granted to the Secretary of Transportation to transfer \$20 million in FY 2001 and \$40 million in FY 2002 from the Federal Aviation Administration to the Coast Guard. This funding is intended to recapitalize the aging LORAN-C radio navigation system. The LORAN-C system remains the primary navigation tool for many vessels and general aviation aircraft and a viable back-up system for some military aircraft. It is critical to maritime traffic and should be available for accurate use.

The final approval, while not at the US \$30 million mark proposed by many, does represent significant continuing Congressional support, now and in the future. Funds for 2002, mentioned in the Authorization are at this time still under discussion in conference and as of press time no information was available. ■

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