SEC. __. LIMITATION ON LENGTH OF OVERSEAS FORWARD DEPLOYMENT OF NAVAL VESSELS.

Section 323(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 8690 note) is amended—

(1) by striking "In the case" and inserting "(1) Subject to paragraph (2), in the case"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) The Secretary of the Navy may waive the limitation under paragraph (1) with respect to a naval vessel in the same manner as provided for in subsection (c) of section 8690 of title 10, United States Code, with respect to the limitation in subsection (a) of that section.".

[Please note: The "Changes to Existing Law" section below sets out in red-line format how the legislative text would amend existing law.]

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal grants the Secretary of the Navy the authority to waive the limitation on returning naval vessels that were "forward deployed" overseas for more than 10 years as of the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

Navy understands the intent of Congress to re-assign a U.S. homeport within a 3-year timeframe (AUG 2018 – to – AUG 2021) for those ships currently "forward deployed" overseas in excess of 10 years. This proposal grants the Secretary of the Navy the flexibility needed to adjust the departure date of a currently "forward deployed" ship if needed to meet mission requirements and reduce operational risk.

This proposal has no budget implications since the proposed change provides the Secretary of the Navy the ability to waive a congressional requirement with justification, as the planned operational use of affected ships is included in the FY 2021 Budget request.

Budget Implications: No budgetary impact.

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would make the following changes to section 323 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019:

SEC. 323. LIMITATION ON LENGTH OF OVERSEAS FORWARD DEPLOYMENT OF NAVAL VESSELS.

(a) LIMITATION.—

* * * * *

(b) TREATMENT OF CURRENTLY DEPLOYED VESSELS.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), in ~~In~~ the case of any naval vessel that has been forward deployed overseas for a period in excess of ten years as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall ensure that such vessel is assigned a homeport in the United States by not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) The Secretary of the Navy may waive the limitation under paragraph (1) with respect to a naval vessel in the same manner as provided for in subsection (c) of section 8690 of title 10, United States Code, with respect to the limitation in subsection (a) of that section.

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