

Strengthening Coast Guard Communities Act of 2026

Sponsored by: Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

For over a decade, every branch of the U.S. Armed Forces – except for the U.S. Coast Guard – has been able to collaborate with state and local governments through intergovernmental support agreements (IGSAs) to secure cost-saving, mutually beneficial service contracts to support their installations and surrounding communities. Senators Chris Murphy and Lisa Murkowski are leading the ***Strengthening Coast Guard Communities Act of 2026*** to finally correct this oversight and deliver the Coast Guard the authority to use IGSAs to secure lower-cost, higher-quality services across its facilities, while deepening ties with host communities.

IGSA Background: In the FY13 NDAA, Congress authorized the U.S. military to enter IGSAs with local and state governments to support installation services, as long as these agreements provided financial benefits or improved mission effectiveness. Aimed at reining in military installation support costs, the provision (10 U.S. Code § 2679) has delivered clear successes: using thorough vetting processes, services have approved over hundreds of IGSAs across nearly over 100 installations for services ranging from waste removal to public transportation to childcare services to animal control.ⁱ A 2018 GAO report studied eight IGSAs and found just those agreements generated financial benefits of at least \$9 million – not to mention the less tangible benefits of reduced administrative time, increased service efficiency and quality, and improved relationships with surrounding communities.ⁱⁱ

While the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy have benefited from IGSA benefits, the Coast Guard has not received the authority delegation and guidance from DHS required to implement these agreements and unlock key cost savings, improved efficiency, and higher-quality services. Although DHS and Coast Guard lawyers have confirmed that 10 U.S. Code § 2679 offers IGSA authority to the Coast Guard too, DHS has so far delayed in formalizing that authority by issuing the guidelines and approval processes Coast Guard installations need to sign force-multiplying, cost-saving service agreements that will boost their communities nationwide.

IGSA Authority for the Coast Guard: Following on a related [letter](#) to DHS, Senators Murphy and Murkowski have introduced the ***Strengthening Coast Guard Communities Act of 2026***. The bill will require the DHS Secretary to delegate IGSA authority to the Coast Guard Commandant and finally enable the service to tap into the cost-saving local contracting partnerships that all other military branches have benefited from for years. This bill will press DHS to take this low-lift step that promises to strengthen ties between Coast Guard installations and their surrounding communities – and to save millions of dollars and administrative burden for everyone involved.

ⁱ <https://defensecommunities.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-IGSA-Report.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-19-4>