



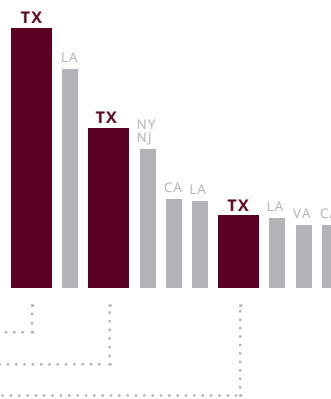
# THE NATION'S GATEWAY TO GLOBAL WATERBORNE COMMERCE TEXAS & THE BLUE ECONOMY

**It is impossible for any Texan to go a single day without eating, wearing, driving or using a product that has traveled through the nation's oceans and inland waterways.**

The state serves as the backbone of the nation's blue economy, and its maritime industry has wide-reaching state, regional and national impacts.

## NATIONAL IMPACT

- Texas is the #1 exporting state in the U.S., and state ports support nearly \$1 trillion in U.S. economic activity.
- Texas is second in the U.S. in terms of foreign and domestic cargo, handling more than 616M tons annually.
- Three Texas water ports are ranked in the top ten in the U.S. for total tonnage:
  - #1: Port Houston, 266.5M
  - #3: Port of Corpus Christi, 164.4M
  - #7: Port of Beaumont, 74.6M



## STATE & REGIONAL IMPACT

- Texas ports generate approximately \$450B of total economic value for the state, representing 25% of Texas' GDP.
- \$7.8B of state and local taxes are generated from economic activity related to the moving of cargo via public marine terminals.



**#1**  
**EXPORTING STATE IN THE NATION FOR 22 YEARS**

**#2**  
**CONTRIBUTOR TO THE U.S. GDP**

**3**  
**PORTS DESIGNATED STRATEGIC MILITARY PORTS BY U.S. DEPT. OF DEFENSE**

**1.8M**  
**TEXAS JOBS IMPACTED BY STATE PORTS**

## CRITICAL WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

Despite the blue economy's economic and strategic importance, the maritime industry suffers severely from a lack of qualified individuals to support it. A recent Maritime Workforce Working Group analysis emphasized this deficit between the number of U.S. mariners with unlimited credentials needed to operate the commercial U.S. flag fleet and sustained military sealift operations versus the candidate pool.



**1,000+**  
**Unlimited license mariners needed in TX over the next two years**

The shortage of unlimited credentialed individuals is so critical Military Sealift Command is now sidelining seventeen Navy support ships, citing a lack of qualified mariners to operate them.

**The industry is desperate for mariners with unlimited credentials** //



## THE GULF COAST'S SPECIALIZED MARITIME TRAINING INSTITUTION

# TEXAS A&M MARITIME ACADEMY

The Texas A&M Maritime Academy is the state and region's answer to the critical workforce need. Established in 1962 on the Texas A&M Galveston Campus, the academy's mission is to recruit, train and produce qualified U.S. mariners ready and able to work in mandatory positions on commercial and federal military sealift vessels. We are asking for \$16M over the next two years (\$8M annually) to support this critical mission.

## SUPPORTING THE TEXAS WORKFORCE

- Texas A&M is the only source of specialized graduates who can serve as officers aboard ships in the Gulf Coast Region.
- Each year, companies want to hire 1,000+ of these Texas graduates.
- The Texas A&M Maritime Academy has an essential presence in the nation's economic, political and naval strategy through commissioned U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard cadets and the U.S. Merchant Marines.

“ There's a lack of experienced merchant mariners to crew the ships, and this is really a clear danger to national security. ”

**RADM (RET.) MARK MONTGOMERY**  
August 25, 2024



## TS LONE STAR STATE

In December 2020, the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration began construction of five 524-foot state-of-the-art National Security Multi-Mission Vessels (NSMVs) to support the state maritime academies. Texas will receive the NSMV *Lone Star State* in late 2025.



The ship features instructional spaces, a full training bridge and space for up to 600 cadets to train at sea. In addition, each ship has modern hospital facilities, a helicopter pad and can accommodate 1,000 people in times of humanitarian need.



The Lone Star State will allow the maritime academy to provide additional support and resources to the Texas Division of Emergency Management and support disaster response capabilities.

# 1 OF 6

**STATE MARITIME ACADEMIES:  
ONLY ONE ON THE GULF**

# 2

**UNLIMITED LICENSES:  
DECK AND ENGINE**

# 1,665

**MILES TO NEXT STATE  
MARITIME ACADEMY (NY)**

## BARRIERS TO SUCCESS



The high cost to students is an active deterrent for enrollment to the Texas A&M Maritime Academy. The five other state maritime academies receive significant funding from their respective state legislatures, resulting in lower costs to both in-state and out-of-state prospective and current students.



Enrollment has declined across all state maritime academies, increasing competition for prospective students. State support will significantly reduce the students' costs and allow Texas A&M to competitively recruit nationally to meet the needs of Texas.



Partial federal funding does not cover the increased cost to crew, dock, maintain and operate the training vessel.