

1 SJR93  
2 159830-1  
3 By Senator Bedford  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 18-MAR-14

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8 URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT THE SAFE FREIGHT ACT.

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10 WHEREAS, Alabama's freight rail system represents a  
11 significant component of Alabama's transportation  
12 infrastructure and is vital to supporting the economy  
13 throughout the state, particularly manufacturing, mining, and  
14 agriculture; and

15 WHEREAS, Alabama has over 3,600 freight train  
16 employees and a freight rail system of long-haul, regional,  
17 and short line railroads containing more than 3,750 miles of  
18 freight line; and

19 WHEREAS, freight trains, which can be up to two  
20 miles long and may carry millions of pounds of freight,  
21 require adequate crew members for safe operation; and

22 WHEREAS, on July 6, 2013, a runaway freight train  
23 tragically exploded and killed 47 people in the Canadian  
24 province of Quebec, partially because the single-crew member  
25 was unable to properly secure the cars to prevent the runaway;  
26 and

1           WHEREAS, rail system safety is a high priority for  
2 both rail carriers and government agencies due to the  
3 potential impact of freight train-related accidents on the  
4 general public and the efficiency of rail operations; and

5           WHEREAS, the federal Safe Freight Act pending in  
6 Congress would require a freight train crew to consist of at  
7 least two individuals. Staffing a freight train with at least  
8 two individuals would foster safer grade crossings, especially  
9 in congested cities, by decreasing the chance of potentially  
10 dangerous blind spots, would increase efficiency and the  
11 overall safety of freight train operations, and would aid in  
12 properly parking and securing a train; now therefore,

13           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
14 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby urge the Congress of  
15 the United States to enact the Safe Freight Act in order to  
16 ensure that no freight train be operated unless it has a crew  
17 of at least two properly certified individuals.

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate  
19 provide duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the  
20 Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of  
21 Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of  
22 the United States Senate, the members of the Alabama  
23 Congressional delegation, and the news media of Alabama.