

1 SJR74
2 169448-1
3 By Senator Ward
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 14-MAY-15

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8 URGING THE GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH THE ALABAMA
9 COMMISSION ON RAILWAY SAFETY.

10
11 WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to the
12 protection and well-being of all citizens of this state; and

13 WHEREAS, a safe and efficient railway system is
14 vital for businesses and industries currently operating in
15 this state and for future economic development in this state;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that the
18 operation of the rail transportation system supports millions
19 of jobs and generates billions of dollars over the years in
20 the national economy; and

21 WHEREAS, railroad operations that routinely block
22 highway and road crossings present public safety,
23 transportation, and other critical issues for municipal and
24 county governments across the state; and

25 WHEREAS, solutions that enhance the safety of
26 railroad operations in this state benefit both the general
27 public and railroad employees; and

1 WHEREAS, it is imperative to study the current
2 operation of the rail transportation system and highway
3 traffic flow in this state to identify areas of risk to public
4 safety and advance proven and innovative technologies and
5 procedures to promote public railway safety; now therefore,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
7 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Governor of the State of
8 Alabama is urged to create an Alabama Commission on Railway
9 Safety comprised of up to 17 members to conduct a review of
10 the current railroad safety laws, regulations, and procedures
11 in this state and recommend improvements, including
12 implementing innovative technology, improving highway traffic
13 flow and grade separation, closing redundant grade crossings,
14 and increasing funding for Alabama Department of
15 Transportation's Section 130 Program, among other possible
16 ideas to promote and enhance public railway safety in this
17 state.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That membership of the
19 Alabama Commission On Railway Safety be comprised of the
20 following:

21 (1) The President of the Public Service Commission,
22 or his or her designee.

23 (2) The Director of the Alabama Department of
24 Transportation, or his or her designee.

25 (3) The Director of the Alabama Emergency Management
26 Agency, or his or her designee.

1 (4) The Secretary of the Alabama Law Enforcement
2 Agency, or his or her designee.

3 (5) The Alabama State Fire Marshal, or his or her
4 designee.

5 (6) The President of the Alabama Sheriff's
6 Association, or his or her designee, may appoint a maximum of
7 two sworn law enforcement officers currently working in an
8 area with rail grades and crossings in their jurisdictions.

9 (7) The President of the Alabama Association of
10 Chiefs of Police, or his or her designee, may appoint a
11 maximum of two sworn law enforcement officers currently
12 working in an area with rail grades and crossings in their
13 jurisdictions.

14 (8) The President of the Alabama Firefighters
15 Association, or his or her designee, may appoint a maximum of
16 two firefighters currently working in an area with rail grades
17 and crossings in their jurisdictions.

18 (9) The General Counsel for the Alabama League of
19 Municipalities, or his or her designee.

20 (10) The Executive Director of the Association of
21 County Commissioners of Alabama, or his or her designee.

22 (11) Three members appointed by the Governor, two
23 representing the railroad industry and one representing the
24 Alabama Railway Association.

25 (12) The Executive Director of Operation
26 Lifesaver-Alabama, or his or her designee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all state agencies are
2 urged to cooperate fully with the commission in accomplishing
3 the objectives of the commission, and that a copy of this
4 resolution be presented to the Governor so that our sincere
5 and continuing interest in this matter is known.