

1 SJR38  
2 169448-2  
3 By Senator Ward  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 24-FEB-16

1 SJR38

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4 ENROLLED, SJR38,

5 URGING THE GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH THE ALABAMA  
6 COMMISSION ON RAILWAY SAFETY.

7  
8 WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to the  
9 protection and well-being of all citizens of this state; and

10 WHEREAS, a safe and efficient railway system is  
11 vital for businesses and industries currently operating in  
12 this state and for future economic development in this state;  
13 and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, solutions that enhance the safety of  
23 railroad operations in this state benefit both the general  
24 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1                   (11) Three members appointed by the Governor, two  
2 representing the railroad industry and one representing the  
3 Alabama Railway Association.

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

6                   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all state agencies are  
7 urged to cooperate fully with the commission in accomplishing  
8 the objectives of the commission, and that a copy of this  
9 resolution be presented to the Governor so that our sincere  
10 and continuing interest in this matter is known.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR38  
Senate 24-FEB-16  
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution  
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris  
Secretary

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 01-MAR-16

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By: Senator Ward