

1 SJR68
2 183964-2
3 By Senator Ward
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 04-APR-17

1 SJR68

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4 ENROLLED, SJR68,

5 ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA COMMISSION ON RAILWAY

6 SAFETY.

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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 there is created the Alabama
8 Commission on Railway Safety to conduct a review of the
9 current railroad safety laws, regulations, and procedures in
10 this state and recommend improvements, including implementing
11 innovative technology, improving highway traffic flow and
12 grade separation, closing redundant grade crossings, and
13 increasing funding for Alabama Department of Transportation's
14 Section 130 Program, among other possible ideas to promote and
15 enhance public railway safety in this state.

16 (a) Membership of the Alabama Commission On Railway
17 Safety shall be comprised of the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their appointments to assure membership of the Alabama Commission on Railway Safety is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

(c) The commission shall perform the following duties:

(1) Perform a complete and comprehensive review and assessment of current state laws and regulations regarding railway transport and highway traffic flow.

(2) Recommend improvements to improve railway safety and traffic flow.

(3) Recommend legislation to address and improve the safety on highways intersecting railroad crossings.

(d) (1) Appointments to the commission shall be made within 30 days after the effective date of this act.

(2) The commission shall hold its first meeting no later than August 1, 2017, with the date, time, and location of the meeting designated by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

(3) At the first meeting, the commission shall elect a chair, vice chair, and other officers as determined by the commission, and shall set dates, times, and locations of subsequent meetings.

(e) The House of Representatives and the Senate shall provide the necessary staff and support to the commission to perform its duties.

(f) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses in attending meetings of the commission according to the policies and procedures of their respective appointing authority.

(g) The commission shall submit its findings and recommendations in writing to the Legislature no later than the fifth Legislative day of the 2018 Regular Session, at which time the commission shall be dissolved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all state agencies are urged to cooperate fully with the commission in accomplishing the objectives of the commission, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to the appointing authorities set out above so that our sincere 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

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SJR68

Senate 06-APR-17

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

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Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

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House of Representatives

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Adopted: 13-APR-17

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By: Senator Ward