

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 16-0303R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry, Costello, Kraft, Branch, Clarke, President Young,
Councilmembers Middleton, Scott, Mosby, Curran, Holton, Welch, Spector, Reisinger,
Stokes

Introduced and read first time: April 18, 2016

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

Committee Report: Favorable

Adopted: November 14, 2016

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Request for Federal Action – Federal Railroad Administration Crew Size Rule

FOR the purpose of supporting the Federal Railroad Administration’s proposed ruling requiring that trains operated in America be operated by a crew of at least two people.

Recitals

WHEREAS, the safe operation of freight and passenger trains are vital to commerce; and Baltimore City Council supports efforts to keep train operations safe in the city of Baltimore.

WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) regarding adequate staffing on trains, a factor we believe is vital to ensuring safe train operations.

WHEREAS, polling across America from North Dakota to Alabama shows overwhelming bi-partisan support of two-person crews, with 83 to 87 percent of those polled in favor of mandating that trains be operated by a crew of at least two qualified individuals.

WHEREAS, national studies show that a minimum of two on-board crew members are vital to operate a train safely and minimize the likelihood of train-related accidents.

WHEREAS, virtually all trains in North America are already operated by crews of at least two individuals, making the economic impact of this proposed rule minimal.

WHEREAS, the FRA agrees that, while advancements in automated technology such as Positive Train Control (PTC) systems improve railroad safety, they are not a substitute for a train’s on-board crew members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, that the Baltimore City Council supports the Federal Railroad Administration’s proposed ruling requiring that trains operated in America be operated by a crew of at least two people.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
2 United States Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of the Federal Railroad
3 Administration, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this resolution be filed with the United States
5 Department of Transportation in the form of comments in support of the proposed federal rule.