

**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

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Request for Federal Action – Federal Railroad Administration Crew Size Rule**

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

5 **Recitals**

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
22 Baltimore City Council supports the Federal Railroad Administration’s proposed ruling requiring
23 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 deleted 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.