

S 1379

Rail Security Act of 2005

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Jul 11, 2005

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7992-7996) (Jul 11, 2005)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/1379>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]

Party: Republican • **State:** AZ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Biden, Joseph R., Jr. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jul 13, 2005

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 11, 2005

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 HR 153	Related bill	Mar 9, 2005: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity.

Rail Security Act of 2005 - Directs the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Border and Transportation Security to complete, and make prioritized recommendations regarding, a vulnerability assessment of freight and passenger rail transportation for identification of: (1) critical assets and infrastructures and the threats to them; (2) vulnerabilities specific to the transportation of hazardous materials via railroad; and (3) security weaknesses in passenger and cargo security, transportation infrastructure, protection systems, procedural policies, communications systems, employee training, emergency response planning, and any other area.

Directs the Secretary of Transportation to review existing Department of Transportation (DOT) rail regulations to identify areas for revision to improve rail security.

Directs the Comptroller General to study and report to specified congressional committees on the rail passenger transportation security programs in Japan, member nations of the European Union (EU), and other foreign countries in order to identify effective rail transportation security measures.

Directs the Under Secretary to: (1) analyze the cost and feasibility of requiring security screening for passengers, baggage, and cargo on passenger trains; and (2) conduct a pilot program of random security screening of passengers and baggage at a specified number of passenger rail stations served by Amtrak.

Authorizes appropriations for certain fire and life-safety improvements and infrastructure upgrades to Amtrak tunnels on the Northeast Corridor.

Amends federal transportation law to direct Amtrak to submit to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Secretary of Transportation a plan to address the needs of families of passengers involved in rail passenger accidents.

Authorizes the Under Secretary to make grants for certain system-wide Amtrak security upgrades and freight and hazardous materials transportation and passenger rail security upgrades.

Establishes a research and development (R&D) program to improve freight and intercity passenger rail security.

Directs the Federal Railroad Administration to prescribe standards for welded rail and tank car safety improvements.

Requires the Under Secretary to report to specified congressional committees: (1) an assessment of the current system for preclearance and screening of rail and airline passengers and baggage, as well as freight railroad traffic, between the United States and Canada; and (2) information on progress toward finalizing a protocol with Canada on preclearance of rail passengers between the two countries.

Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to study and report to Congress on the impact of blocked highway-railroad grade crossings on the ability of first responders to perform their duties in the event of a terrorist attack.

Sets forth certain whistleblower protections for rail employees or other persons providing information about perceived security threats.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 11, 2005:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 11, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S7992)
- **Jul 11, 2005:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7992-7996)