

## HR 2351

Rail Security Act of 2005

**Congress:** 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Transportation and Public Works

**Introduced:** May 12, 2005

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity. (May 23, 2005)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/2351>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Oberstar, James L. [D-MN-8]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MN • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		May 12, 2005
Rep. Bishop, Timothy H. [D-NY-1]	D · NY		May 12, 2005
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		May 12, 2005
Rep. Brown, Corrine [D-FL-3]	D · FL		May 12, 2005
Rep. Capuano, Michael E. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		May 12, 2005
Rep. Carson, Julia [D-IN-7]	D · IN		May 12, 2005
Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]	D · MD		May 12, 2005
Rep. Holden, Tim [D-PA-17]	D · PA		May 12, 2005
Rep. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ-13]	D · NJ		May 12, 2005
Rep. Millender-McDonald, Juanita [D-CA-37]	D · CA		May 12, 2005
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-8]	D · NY		May 12, 2005
Rep. Rahall, Nick J., II [D-WV-3]	D · WV		May 12, 2005
Rep. Weiner, Anthony D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		May 12, 2005
Rep. Filner, Bob [D-CA-51]	D · CA		May 16, 2005
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-14]	D · MI		Jul 26, 2005
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Jul 26, 2005
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Mar 28, 2006
Rep. Schwartz, Allyson Y. [D-PA-13]	D · PA		Jul 28, 2006

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	May 23, 2005
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	May 13, 2005

## Subjects & Policy Tags

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### Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

### Related Bills

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*No related bills are listed.*

### Summary (as of May 12, 2005)

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Rail Security Act of 2005 - Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) to: (1) develop a security assessment of railroad transportation identifying critical railroad assets and infrastructures, including threats and vulnerabilities specific to the rail transportation of hazardous materials; (2) use the security assessment to develop a transportation modal security plan that establishes a strategy for minimizing terrorist threats to railroad transportation systems; (3) develop prioritized recommendations for improving railroad security; (4) carry out a research and development (R&D) program to improve railroad security; (5) develop guidance for a rail worker security training program to prepare rail workers for potential threat conditions; and (6) develop a national plan for public outreach and awareness to increase awareness of measures that the general public and railroad passengers and employees can take to increase railroad system security.

Authorizes the Secretary to make grants to freight and passenger railroad carriers (including shippers of hazardous materials) for security upgrades to prevent or respond to acts of terrorism or sabotage.

Authorizes appropriations to Amtrak for fire and life-safety improvements and infrastructure upgrades to certain tunnels in New York, New York, Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

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

Directs the Secretary to analyze the cost and feasibility of requiring security screening for passengers, baggage, and cargo on passenger trains. Directs the Secretary of Transportation to: (1) issue emergency responder training standards; and (2) provide grants to Operation Respond Institute.

Amends Federal transportation law to require the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), as soon as practicable after a rail passenger accident involving a major loss of life, to: (1) designate and publicize a NTSB employee who shall be a director of support services for the families of passengers involved; and (2) designate an independent, experienced nonprofit organization with primary responsibility for coordinating the emotional care and support of such families.

Directs each rail passenger carrier to submit to the Secretary of Transportation and the Chairman of the NTSB a plan for addressing the needs of such families.

Directs the Secretary to establish a task force to develop a model plan to assist passenger rail carriers in responding to passenger rail accidents.

## Actions Timeline

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- **May 23, 2005:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity.
- **May 13, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E972-973)
- **May 13, 2005:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads.
- **May 12, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **May 12, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **May 12, 2005:** Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
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