

HR 1516

Federal Railroad Safety Accountability and Improvement Act

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Mar 14, 2007

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. (Mar 15, 2007)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/1516>

Sponsor

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

Party: Democratic • State: MN • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Brown, Corrine [D-FL-3]	D · FL		Mar 14, 2007
Rep. Mica, John L. [R-FL-7]	R · FL		Mar 14, 2007
Rep. Shuster, Bill [R-PA-9]	R · PA		Mar 14, 2007

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 15, 2007

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 S 918	Identical bill	Mar 19, 2007: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Federal Railroad Safety Accountability and Improvement Act - Authorizes appropriations for FY2008-FY2011 for the railroad safety program, including a safety risk reduction program to be implemented as part of such program. Eliminates the authority of the Secretary of Transportation (or state Secretary) to prescribe investigative and surveillance activities to enforce rail safety regulations and orders.

Prohibits public disclosure of railroad safety risk reduction program records.

Requires railroad carriers and states to report to the Secretary, and update periodically, unreported highway-rail (including non-vehicular pathway-rail) grade crossings and public highway-rail (including non-vehicular public pathway) grade crossings within the United States.

Urges the development of new technology to prevent loss of life and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings.

Sets forth requirements: (1) prohibiting the judicial review of railroad safety regulations or orders on the ground that they impact security; (2) authorizing the Secretary to waive compliance of such regulations and orders if there is an emergency event, it is in the public interest, and consistent with railroad safety; (3) authorizing the Secretary to monitor railroad radio communications to prevent rail accidents, or as part of an accident investigation; (4) authorizing the Secretary to prohibit individuals who have violated hazardous material transportation safety laws from performing safety-sensitive functions in the railroad industry until specified conditions are met; (5) repealing and reserving codified federal hours of service laws, requiring the conversion of such laws to regulations, and authorizing the Secretary to amend such regulations to prevent and mitigate fatigue in individuals performing safety-critical train related duties; (6) establishing maximum number of hours a train employee may be on duty; and (7) authorizing the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration and designated employees access to criminal history records of railroad employees.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 15, 2007:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.
- **Mar 14, 2007:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 14, 2007:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.