

S 953

Railroad Competition and Service Improvement Act of 2007

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Mar 21, 2007

Current Status: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and

Latest Action: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 110-886. (Oct 23, 2007)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/953

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]

Party: Democratic • State: WV • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baucus, Max [D-MT]	D · MT		Mar 21, 2007
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 21, 2007
Sen. Craig, Larry E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Mar 21, 2007
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Mar 21, 2007
Sen. Dorgan, Byron L. [D-ND]	D · ND		Mar 21, 2007
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 21, 2007
Sen. Landrieu, Mary L. [D-LA]	D · LA		Mar 21, 2007
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Mar 21, 2007
Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA]	R · LA		Mar 21, 2007
Sen. Johnson, Tim [D-SD]	D · SD		May 7, 2007
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		May 8, 2007
Sen. Feingold, Russell D. [D-WI]	D · WI		Jul 21, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Oct 23, 2007

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 2125	Related bill	May 4, 2007: Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

Summary (as of Mar 21, 2007)

Railroad Competition and Service Improvement Act of 2007 - Sets forth Surface Transportation Board directives calling for effective competition among rail carriers and reliable rail transportation service for rail customers.

Requires a rail carrier, upon shipper request, to establish rates for transportation and provide requested service between any two points on the carrier's system.

Prohibits the Board from issuing a certificate authorizing construction and operation of railroad lines, short line purchases by Class II and Class III rail carriers, or consolidation, merger, and acquisition of control of rail carriers, or exempt from such certificate requirements any person, transaction, or service with respect to such activity, if the activity involves a transfer of interest in a line of railroad, from a Class I rail carrier to a Class II or III rail carrier, and the activity would: (1) restrict the ability of the Class II or Class III rail carrier to interchange traffic with other rail carriers; (2) restrict competition of rail carriers in the region affected by the activity in a manner that would violate U.S. antitrust laws; or (3) require higher per car interchange rates for Class II or Class III rail carriers to interchange traffic with other rail carriers. Prescribes procedures for Board review of any activity alleged to have resulted in a restriction of competition.

Makes mandatory (currently, discretionary) entry by rail carriers into reciprocal switching agreements where the Board finds it is practicable and in the public interest, or where such agreements are necessary to provide competitive rail service.

Requires the Board to designate any state or substantial part of a state as an area of inadequate rail competition after making certain findings.

Requires the Board to post rail service complaints on its website.

Sets forth time limits for the Board to act on complaints filed alleging unlawfulness of a new or revised rail rate, rule, or practice.

Establishes the Office of Rail Customer Advocacy.

Grants rail customers access to a Board process for determining rail rate reasonableness in railroad market dominance cases.

Requires submission to arbitration of certain rail rate, service, and other disputes.

Authorizes the Board to investigate rail carrier violations on its own initiative (under current law, the Board is authorized to investigate only on complaint). Requires the Board (currently, discretionary) to initiate an investigation upon receiving a complaint alleging rail carrier violations.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 23, 2007:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 110-886.
- **Mar 21, 2007:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 21, 2007:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S3527-3528)
- **Mar 21, 2007:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.