

S 1233

Rail Shipper Fairness Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: May 25, 2017

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (May 25, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1233>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]

Party: Democratic • **State:** WI • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		May 25, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 25, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Rail Shipper Fairness Act of 2017

This bill amends federal transportation law to: (1) require rail transportation service to be efficient and reliable based on a shipper's reasonable service requirements, and (2) expand enumerated U.S. transportation policies to provide for and promote the protection of the shipping public.

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) may:

- issue emergency service orders that include rail carrier shipments moving under contract if such shipments are part of a regional service order; and
- require reports, service plans, or other documents that cover shipments moving under contract.

Rail carriers shall be liable for damages or equitable relief as a result of inadequate or deficient service. Civil penalties for rail carriers who violate certain federal requirements are increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000 per violation.

The bill allows shippers to obtain rates to or from any interchange points within 100 miles of two or more rail carriers (i.e., competitive switching).

The STB shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding to develop a market-based revenue methodology for determining the reasonableness of challenged rail rates.

A rail carrier must compute fuel surcharges in accordance with changes in actual fuel prices, rather than using an index.

The STB must: (1) suspend collection of rate increases in stand-alone cost cases while a rate case is pending, and (2) replace its revenue adequacy test for rail carriers with a formula for calculating a carrier's cost of capital.

Actions Timeline

- **May 25, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
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