

HR 1633

RAIL Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Mar 17, 2023

Current Status: ASSUMING FIRST SPONSORSHIP - Mrs. Sykes asked unanimous consent that she may hereafter be considered

Latest Action: ASSUMING FIRST SPONSORSHIP - Mrs. Sykes asked unanimous consent that she may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 1633, a bill originally introduced by Representative Johnson (OH), for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII. Agreed to without objection. (Jan 29, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1633>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Johnson, Bill [R-OH-6]

Party: Republican • State: OH • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (15 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Balderson, Troy [R-OH-12]	R · OH		Mar 17, 2023
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Mar 17, 2023
Rep. Brown, Shontel M. [D-OH-11]	D · OH		Mar 17, 2023
Rep. Carey, Mike [R-OH-15]	R · OH		Mar 17, 2023
Rep. Joyce, David P. [R-OH-14]	R · OH		Mar 17, 2023
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		Mar 17, 2023
Rep. Landsman, Greg [D-OH-1]	D · OH		Mar 17, 2023
Rep. Miller, Max L. [R-OH-7]	R · OH		Mar 17, 2023
Rep. Sykes, Emilia Strong [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Mar 17, 2023
Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-10]	R · OH		Mar 17, 2023
Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Raja [D-IL-8]	D · IL		Apr 26, 2023
Rep. Dean, Madeleine [D-PA-4]	D · PA		May 16, 2023
Rep. Buchanan, Vern [R-FL-16]	R · FL		May 26, 2023
Rep. Molinaro, Marcus J. [R-NY-19]	R · NY		Oct 26, 2023
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Sep 20, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 20, 2023

## 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 Mar 17, 2023)

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### Reducing Accidents In Locomotives Act or the RAIL Act

This bill addresses safety requirements for rail carriers and trains transporting hazardous materials.

Specifically, the Department of Transportation (DOT) must issue safety regulations for trains carrying hazardous materials to require that rail carriers (1) provide state emergency response commissioners with advance notice and information about the hazardous materials; (2) reduce blocked rail crossings; and (3) comply with certain requirements regarding train length and weight specifications, track standards, speed restrictions, and response plans.

DOT must also establish requirements for wayside defect detectors. These are used by railway systems alongside the tracks to detect defects and failures (e.g., wheel bearing failures). Current federal regulations do not require their use, but federal guidance does address their placement and use. Under the bill, DOT must issue regulations establishing requirements for the installation, repair, testing, maintenance, and operation of wayside defect detectors for each rail carrier operating a train carrying hazardous materials. Further, these regulations must establish requirements that safety placards be able to withstand heat in excess of 180 degrees.

The bill also

- increases the maximum fines DOT may impose on rail carriers for violating safety regulations,
- requires DOT to update rail car inspection regulations and audit the federal inspection program,
- phases out certain railroad tank cars by May 1, 2028 (one year sooner than required under current law),
- expands training for local first responders, and
- imposes a new fee on certain rail carriers.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jan 29, 2024:** ASSUMING FIRST SPONSORSHIP - Mrs. Sykes asked unanimous consent that she may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 1633, a bill originally introduced by Representative Johnson (OH), for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII. Agreed to without objection.
- **Mar 20, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.
- **Mar 17, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 17, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.