

HR 1674

Railway Safety Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Mar 21, 2023

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 22, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1674>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Deluzio, Christopher R. [D-PA-17]

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

Cosponsors (17 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. LaLota, Nick [R-NY-1]	R · NY		Mar 21, 2023
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		May 17, 2023
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]	R · FL		May 17, 2023
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		May 25, 2023
Rep. Allred, Colin Z. [D-TX-32]	D · TX		Jun 5, 2023
Rep. Chavez-DeRemer, Lori [R-OR-5]	R · OR		Jun 5, 2023
Rep. Bacon, Don [R-NE-2]	R · NE		Jun 7, 2023
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		Jun 12, 2023
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-8]	D · CA		Jun 14, 2023
Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]	D · NJ		Jun 30, 2023
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jul 18, 2023
Rep. Dean, Madeleine [D-PA-4]	D · PA		Jul 18, 2023
Rep. Santos, George [R-NY-3]	R · NY		Jul 18, 2023
Rep. Lawler, Michael [R-NY-17]	R · NY		Aug 22, 2023
Rep. Ryan, Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		Aug 22, 2023
Rep. D'Esposito, Anthony [R-NY-4]	R · NY		Aug 25, 2023
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Sep 1, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 21, 2023
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 22, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 576	Related bill	Dec 13, 2023: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 284.

Summary (as of Mar 21, 2023)

Railway Safety Act of 2023

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 or shippers (1) provide state emergency response commissioners with advanced 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.

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,
- requires a minimum two-person crew for certain freight trains,
- phases out certain railroad tank cars by May 1, 2025 (four years sooner than required under current law),
- expands training for local first responders,
- imposes a new fee on certain rail carriers, and
- authorizes grants to improve railway safety.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 22, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.
- **Mar 21, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 21, 2023:** Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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.