

As Introduced

**131st General Assembly
Regular Session
2015-2016**

S. R. No. 443

Senator Skindell

Cosponsors: Senators Schiavoni, Yuko, Cafaro, Gentile

A RESOLUTION

To support the Federal Railroad Administration's 1
proposed rule requiring trains operated in the 2
United States to have at least a two-person crew. 3

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, The safe operation of freight and passenger trains 4
is vital to commerce, and Ohio supports efforts to keep train 5
operations safe in our state. It is imperative to ensure the 6
safe movement of freight trains because freight trains transport 7
time-sensitive commodities, as well as toxic and dangerous 8
chemicals through all portions of Ohio; and 9

WHEREAS, For each tour of service, crew members on a 10
freight train must rest in order to work the required twelve 11
hours of continuous service. In addition, each crew member needs 12
to rest because the crew member does not have the option or 13
luxury of stopping at his or her discretion. Because crew 14
members must operate a train according to sign indication 15
signals that indicate the location of trains ahead and behind, 16
crew members, while on duty, must be alert at all times; and 17

WHEREAS, The Federal Railroad Administration has published 18
a notice of a proposed rule requiring trains to be operated by 19
at least two crew members. The Administration believes that, 20
while advancements in automated technology such as Positive 21

Train Control systems improve railroad safety, they are not a 22
substitute for a train's crew members; and 23

WHEREAS, National studies show that train operations 24
require a minimum of two crew members on board to minimize the 25
likelihood of train-related accidents; and 26

WHEREAS, Americans show overwhelmingly bi-partisan support 27
of two-person train crews. More than 80% of those polled favor 28
mandating that trains be operated by a crew of at least two 29
qualified individuals; and 30

WHEREAS, Virtually all trains in North America are already 31
operated by crews of at least two individuals, making the 32
economic impact of the proposed rule minimal; now therefore be 33
it 34

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 131st 35
General Assembly of the State of Ohio, support the Federal 36
Railroad Administration's proposed rule requiring trains 37
operated in the United States to have at least a two-person 38
crew; and be it further 39

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 40
authenticated copies of this resolution to the United States 41
Department of Transportation in the form of comments in support 42
of the proposed rule and the news media of Ohio. 43