



SJ0050

LRB098 19565 GRL 54755 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is the freight rail hub of
3 the nation; its rail network represents a significant portion
4 of the State's transportation infrastructure and is vital to
5 spurring the economy throughout the State; and

6 WHEREAS, Illinois has over 18,000 freight rail employees
7 working in a freight rail system consisting of Class I,
8 regional, shortline, and switching railroads with more than
9 7,000 miles of trackage; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois is the only state in the nation where all
11 Class I railroads operate; and

12 WHEREAS, Freight trains, which can be miles long and carry
13 millions of pounds of freight, including hazardous materials,
14 require adequate crew members for safe and secure operations;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, On July 6, 2013, a runaway freight train
17 tragically derailed and exploded, killing 47 people in the
18 Canadian province of Quebec, partially due to the fact that the
19 single-crew member for that train was unable to properly secure
20 the cars to prevent the runaway; and

1 WHEREAS, Rail system safety has a heightened priority after
2 recent events and is a priority for both rail carriers and
3 government agencies due to the potential impact of freight
4 train-related accidents on the general public and the
5 efficiency of rail operations; and

6 WHEREAS, H.R. 3040, the Safe Freight Act, is pending in
7 Congress and would simply require a freight train crew to
8 consist of at least 2 individuals; and

9 WHEREAS, Staffing a freight train with a certified
10 conductor and a certified engineer would continue to provide
11 safe grade crossings, sustain efficient operations, and
12 provide proper and adequate securement capabilities;
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
16 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge Congress to enact the Safe
17 Freight Act in order to ensure that no freight train be
18 operated unless it is staffed by at least 2 properly certified
19 individuals; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
21 delivered to the Illinois congressional delegation.