

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE BILL NO. 383

By: Herbert

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to passenger rail service; enacting the Interstate Midwest Regional Passenger Rail Compact; stating purpose; limiting powers and duties of Commission; providing for membership and limiting compensation for Commission members; providing for election of officers and stating powers and duties of officers; stating enacting requirements; allowing acceptance of monies, supplies, materials and services; requiring expenses be paid from available funds and prohibiting debt; requiring submission of certain budget; providing for compact membership; providing for operation and effective date of compact; providing for withdrawal from compact; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 326 of Title 66, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Interstate Midwest Regional Passenger Rail Compact".

The Interstate Midwest Regional Passenger Rail Compact is hereby enacted into law and entered into by this state as a party with any other state or states legally joining therein in substantially this form.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 327 of Title 66, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this compact is to facilitate and promote the improvement and development of regional passenger rail service in

the Midwest. A Commission is hereby created to achieve this purpose and to carry out the duties specified in this compact.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 328 of Title 66, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

A. The duties of the Commission are to:

1. Secure the funding and authorization necessary to make passenger rail improvements a reality for the region;

2. Examine and facilitate ways that states can form partnerships to implement improved passenger rail service in the region;

3. Create and facilitate a long-term, interstate plan for high-speed rail passenger service implementation; and

4. Serve as a liaison with Amtrak, the Federal Railroad Administration, the High-Speed Ground Transportation Association, and other regions and entities to ensure that the Midwest is adequately represented and integrated into national plans for passenger rail development.

B. In addition to its exercise of these duties, the Commission may:

1. Provide the multistate leadership necessary to implement the Interstate Midwest Regional Passenger Rail Compact;

2. Work with local elected officials, economic development planning organizations, and similar entities to raise the visibility of passenger rail service needs; and

3. Educate other state officials and the public on the advantages of passenger rail services as an integral part of an intermodal transportation system in the region.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 329 of Title 66, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

## MEMBERSHIP AND COMPENSATION

The manner of appointment of Commission members, terms of office, provisions for removal and suspension, and manner of appointment to fill vacancies shall be determined by each party state pursuant to its laws, but each member shall be a resident of the state of appointment. Commission members shall serve without compensation, but the actual and necessary expenses incurred by a Commission member in the performance of duties shall be met by the state which the member represents, according to its laws.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 330 of Title 66, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

### OFFICERS

The Commission shall annually elect from among its members a chair, and a vice-chair who shall not be a resident of the state represented by the chair, and a secretary-treasurer.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 331 of Title 66, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

### POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The chair of the Commission shall, if present, preside at meetings of the Commission, serve as a principal spokesperson for the Commission, and perform other duties assigned by the Commission. The vice-chair shall perform the duties of the chair if the chair is absent or unable to perform required duties. The secretary-treasurer shall create and maintain a record of Commission meetings and shall receive and be responsible for money paid to the Commission and shall disburse money as authorized by the Commission according to law.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 332 of Title 66, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

## MEETINGS AND COMMISSION ADMINISTRATION

The Commission shall meet at the call of the chair, or at the call of a majority of its members, upon fourteen (14) days' notice, but at least three (3) times in each calendar year.

SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 333 of Title 66, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

### FINANCE

The Commission may accept, for any of its purposes and functions, donations, gifts, grants, and appropriations of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services from the federal government, from any party state or from any department, agency, or municipality thereof, or from any institution, person, firm, or corporation. The Commission, out of the funds available to it, shall pay all expenses incurred by the Commission in executing the duties imposed upon it by this compact. The Commission shall not go into debt. The Commission shall submit to the officer designated by the laws of each party state, periodically as required by the laws of each party state, a budget of its actual past and estimated future expenditures.

SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 334 of Title 66, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

### ENACTMENT AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This compact shall be open for membership for this state as a party with any other state or states legally joining therein. It shall become effective immediately after the passage of an act by any party states incorporating the provisions of this compact into the laws of such states. The compact shall become effective with respect to any eligible state when such state has enacted the compact into law. Withdrawal from this compact shall be by

enactment of a statute repealing the same and shall take effect one (1) year after the effective date of such statute.

SECTION 10. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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