

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1056

By: Bennett and Inman

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution relating to Federal Railroad
8 Administration proposed rulemaking; recognizing
9 importance of train safety; announcing support for
10 certain efforts; providing polling data; providing
11 findings of nationwide studies; addressing potential
12 economic impact; recognizing limitations of certain
13 automated technologies; announcing support for
14 certain proposed rule; and directing certain
15 distribution in certain form.

16 WHEREAS, the safe operation of freight and passenger trains is
17 vital to commerce, and the House of Representatives supports efforts
18 to keep train operations safe in our state; and

19 WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration has published a
20 notice of proposed rulemaking regarding adequate staffing on trains,
21 a factor that is vital to ensuring safe train operations; and

22 WHEREAS, polling across the United States of America, from North
23 Dakota to Alabama, shows overwhelming bipartisan support of two-
24 person crews, with eighty-three percent (83%) to eighty-seven
percent (87%) of those polled in favor of mandating that trains be
operated by a crew of at least two qualified individuals; and

1 WHEREAS, national studies show that a minimum of two on-board
2 crew members is vital to operate a train safely and minimize the
3 likelihood of train-related accidents; and

4 WHEREAS, virtually all trains in North America are already
5 operated by crews of at least two individuals, making the economic
6 impact of the proposed rule minimal; and

7 WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration agrees that while
8 advancements in automated technology such as positive train control
9 systems improve railroad safety, such systems are not an adequate
10 substitute for a train's on-board crew members.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

13 THAT the House of Representatives supports the Federal Railroad
14 Administration's proposed rule requiring that trains operated in the
15 United States of America be operated by no less than a two-person
16 crew.

17 THAT a copy of this resolution be submitted to the United States
18 Department of Transportation in a form that constitutes comments in
19 support of the proposed federal rule.

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21 55-2-9650 JM 03/31/16

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