



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 1078

LCO No. 4373



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING RAIL SERVICE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Transportation
2 shall (1) restore service on the Shore Line East rail line to the same level
3 of service that existed prior to the reduction in service due to the
4 COVID-19 public health emergency and the civil preparedness
5 emergency declared by the Governor on March 10, 2020, (2) purchase
6 and install new rail cars for use on the Waterbury and Danbury
7 branches of the New Haven line, as defined in section 13b-78k of the
8 general statutes, (3) expand the Danbury branch of the New Haven line
9 to include the town of New Milford, and (4) expand the Waterbury
10 branch of the New Haven line to include the towns of Seymour, Shelton
11 and Derby.

12 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Transportation
13 shall study the future of railroads in the state, including, but not limited
14 to, (1) the feasibility of establishing rail service between the towns of
15 Hartford and Middletown, and (2) the feasibility of operating hybrid
16 trains on the Danbury branch of the New Haven line, as defined in

17 section 13b-78k of the general statutes. On or before February 1, 2024,
18 the commissioner shall submit the results of such study to the joint
19 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
20 matters relating to transportation, in accordance with the provisions of
21 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

22 Sec. 3. Section 13b-79u of the general statutes is repealed and the
23 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

24 (a) The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized and directed,
25 in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
26 Management and with the approval of the Governor, to enter into any
27 agreements with the National Rail Passenger Corporation or its
28 successor in interest that are necessary for the operation of rail
29 passenger service on the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield rail line.

30 (b) The commissioner is authorized and directed, in consultation with
31 the secretary and with approval of the Governor, to enter into any
32 agreements with the commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any entity
33 authorized to act on its behalf, or the state of Vermont, or any entity
34 authorized to act on its behalf, that are necessary for the state's
35 participation in the provision of rail passenger service on the New
36 Haven-Hartford-Springfield rail line.

37 (c) The commissioner is authorized and directed, in consultation with
38 the secretary and with the approval of the Governor, to select through a
39 competitive process and contract with an operator or operators for rail
40 service on the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield rail line.

41 (d) The commissioner is authorized and directed to select through a
42 competitive process and contract with an operator or operators for rail
43 service on the Shore Line East rail line.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	13b-79u
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Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Transportation to restore service on the Shore Line East rail line, purchase new rail cars for the Waterbury and Danbury branches of the New Haven rail line, expand service on such branches, study the future of railroads in the state and select and contract with an operator for rail service on the Shore Line East rail line.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]