



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Substitute Bill No. 1078



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*) As used in this section, "Shore Line
2 East" and "New Haven Line" have the same meanings as provided in
3 section 13b-79o of the general statutes. The Department of
4 Transportation shall (1) restore service on Shore Line East to the same
5 level of service that existed prior to the reduction in service due to the
6 COVID-19 public health emergency and the civil preparedness
7 emergency declared by the Governor on March 10, 2020, (2) purchase
8 and install new rail cars for use on the Waterbury and Danbury
9 branches of the New Haven Line, (3) expand the Danbury branch of the
10 New Haven Line to include the town of New Milford, and (4) expand
11 the Waterbury branch of the New Haven Line to include the towns of
12 Seymour, Shelton and Derby.

13 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Transportation
14 shall study the future of railroads in the state, including, but not limited
15 to, (1) the feasibility of establishing rail service between the towns of
16 Hartford and Middletown, and (2) the feasibility of operating hybrid
17 trains on the Danbury branch of the New Haven Line, as defined in
18 section 13b-78k of the general statutes. On or before February 1, 2024,
19 the commissioner shall submit the results of such study to the joint
20 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of

21 matters relating to transportation, in accordance with the provisions of
22 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

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 Section 13b-79u of the general statutes is repealed and the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

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

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

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

42 (d) The commissioner is authorized and directed to select through a
43 competitive process and contract with an operator or operators for rail
44 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

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

APP *Joint Favorable*