



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

***Raised Bill No. 280***

LCO No. 2131



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:  
(TRA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING TRAIN CREW SIZE REQUIREMENTS AND  
THE INSTALLATION OF HOTBOX DETECTORS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) For the purposes of this  
2 section: (1) "Class I freight railroad", "class I railroad" and "class II  
3 railroad" have the same meanings as provided in 40 CFR 103.901, as  
4 amended from time to time; (2) "helper services" means connecting a  
5 locomotive to the front or back of a train to assist the train in ascending  
6 or descending a grade; and (3) "hostling services" means moving a train  
7 or locomotive a short distance in a railroad yard or mechanical facility.

8 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, no class I  
9 freight railroad, class I railroad or class II railroad for transporting  
10 freight that operates a train or locomotive in this state shall be operated  
11 unless the train or locomotive contains a crew of not less than two  
12 persons.

13 (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section do not apply to a  
14 train or locomotive engaged in helper services or hostling services.

15 (d) A railroad company wilfully violating the provisions of this  
16 section shall be fined (1) not less than two hundred fifty dollars, but not  
17 more than one thousand dollars, for a first violation, (2) not less than  
18 one thousand dollars, but not more than five thousand dollars, for a  
19 second violation, and (3) not less than five thousand dollars, but not  
20 more than ten thousand dollars, for a third or subsequent violation.

21 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) For the purposes of this  
22 section, "hotbox detector" means a device used to detect problems with  
23 railcar components, including bearings, axles and brakes, by monitoring  
24 the temperature of such components.

25 (b) A railroad company shall install a hotbox detector along every  
26 twenty-mile segment of rail track in which passenger trains operate.  
27 Such installation shall be (1) included in any new construction project  
28 commencing on and after October 1, 2024, and (2) completed on existing  
29 rail lines not later than October 1, 2025.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) establish minimum train crew size requirements for freight railroad companies operating in the state, and (2) require the installation of hotbox detectors every twenty miles on any rail line in which passenger trains operate.

*[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.]*