

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Joint Resolution 16 (Senator Ruben, *et al.*)  
Budget and Taxation

---

**Proposed Merger of Major Railroads Serving Maryland**

---

This joint resolution expresses the will of the General Assembly that the preservation of competitive rail service in Maryland must be ensured by the service of at least two Class I carriers. The resolution emphasizes the importance of enhancing the operation of shortline and regional railroads as well as protecting railroad employees in Maryland. CSX, Conrail, and Norfolk Southern are urged to address the physical improvements to the railroad systems that are needed to realize the purported benefits of the proposed merger. The merger proposals should also address the need to continue rail service at competitive rates and the need for continued operation and growth of commuter rail services.

The resolution urges the Governor, the Maryland Department of Transportation, and the Department of Business and Economic Development to continue negotiations with CSX, Conrail, and Norfolk Southern to address the issues of concern to the State. The resolution also requests the members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation to encourage the Surface Transportation Board to address the aforementioned issues prior to approval of any merger.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Compliance with this joint resolution would not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect small businesses.

---

**Information Source(s):** Department of Transportation, Department of Business and

Economic Development, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 1997

ncs

---

Analysis by: Jody J. Minnich

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710