

HOUSE BILL 862

K3

6lr2615
CF SB 156

By: **Delegates Stein, Addison, Allen, Behler, Boyce, Ebersole, Foley, Healey, Holmes, Lehman, Lewis, J. Long, Ruth, Solomon, and Ziegler**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Railroads – Required Crew for Movement of Freight**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a railroad train used in connection with the movement of
4 freight from being operated in the State unless it has a certain number of crew
5 members; and generally relating to safety requirements for railroads.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

7 Article – Labor and Employment

8 Section 5.5–101(a), (d), and (e)

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2025 Replacement Volume)

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Labor and Employment

13 Section 5.5–110(e)

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2025 Replacement Volume)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article – Transportation

18 Section 21–101(a) and (r)

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Labor and Employment**

4 5.5–101.

5 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

6 (d) (1) “Railroad” includes each common carrier by rail and all branches,
7 bridges, cars, extensions, ferries, plants, spurs, stations, subways, switches, terminal
8 facilities, tracks, tunnels, and all equipment used on or in connection with them.

9 (2) “Railroad” does not include a rapid rail transit system or light rail
10 system operating in the State.

11 (e) “Railroad company” means:

12 (1) the operator of a railroad operating in the State; and

13 (2) the State or any political subdivision of the State, while operating a
14 railroad.

15 5.5–110.

16 **(E) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “RAILROAD TRAIN” HAS THE MEANING STATED**
17 **IN § 21–101 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.**

18 **(2) (I) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO A RAILROAD TRAIN USED IN**
19 **CONNECTION WITH THE MOVEMENT OF RAILROAD FREIGHT THAT SHARES THE SAME**
20 **RAIL CORRIDOR AS A HIGH–SPEED PASSENGER OR COMMUTER TRAIN.**

21 **(II) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A RAILROAD TRAIN**
22 **USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MOVEMENT OF RAILROAD FREIGHT INVOLVING:**

23 **1. HOSTLER SERVICE; OR**

24 **2. UTILITY EMPLOYEES IN YARD SERVICE.**

25 **(3) A RAILROAD TRAIN USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MOVEMENT**
26 **OF RAILROAD FREIGHT MAY NOT BE OPERATED IN THE STATE UNLESS THE**
27 **RAILROAD TRAIN HAS A CREW OF AT LEAST TWO INDIVIDUALS.**

1 **(4) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A**
2 **PERSON WHO WILLFULLY VIOLATES THIS SUBSECTION IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL**
3 **PENALTY ASSESSED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF:**

4 **1. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ITEM 2 OF THIS**
5 **SUBPARAGRAPH, A FINE NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000; OR**

6 **2. IF THE PERSON PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED A WILLFUL**
7 **VIOLATION WITHIN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 3 YEARS, A FINE NOT TO EXCEED**
8 **\$25,000.**

9 **(II) A RAILROAD COMPANY SHALL BE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE**
10 **FOR THE ACTIONS OF THE AGENTS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE RAILROAD COMPANY**
11 **THAT VIOLATE THIS SUBSECTION.**

12 **Article – Transportation**

13 21–101.

14 (a) In this title and Title 25 of this article the following words have the meanings
15 indicated.

16 (r) “Railroad train” means any locomotive or any other car, rolling stock,
17 equipment, or other device that, alone or coupled to others, is operated on stationary rails.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

19 (a) Section 1 of this Act shall take effect contingent on the enacting of
20 substantially similar legislation in the State of New York, the Commonwealth of
21 Pennsylvania, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

22 (b) The Maryland Department of Labor shall notify the Department of Legislative
23 Services within 10 days after the contingency described in subsection (a) of this section is
24 met.

25 (c) If the Department of Legislative Services receives notice under subsection (b)
26 of this section on or before October 1, 2056, Section 1 of this Act shall take effect on the date
27 notice is received.

28 (d) If the Department of Legislative Services does not receive notice under
29 subsection (b) of this section on or before October 1, 2056, Section 1 of this Act, with no
30 further action required by the General Assembly, shall be null and void.

31 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of this
32 Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.