

DANA M. STEIN
Legislative District 11B
Baltimore County

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SPEAKER PRO TEM
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Environment and Transportation
Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Environment

Natural Resources,
Agriculture and Open Space



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 301
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3527 · 301-858-3527
800-492-7122 Ext. 3527
Dana.Stein@house.state.md.us

The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Delegate Dana Stein’s Testimony in Support of HB 1446
Railroads – Safety Requirements (Maryland Railroad Safety Act of 2024)**

Chairman Korman, Vice Chairwoman Boyce, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

As originally introduced, this bill had several provisions related to railroad safety. In meeting with the concerned parties, I realized there were issues with the language in a few provisions. So, with the amendments, the bill only leaves in the two-person crew requirement. The remaining provisions will be worked on further in the future.

The two-person crew requirement language is very similar to the bills the House passed on five different occasions: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2023. We’ve also added language regarding pre-emption if the Federal Railroad Administration issues minimum crew-size standards.

I want to emphasize that this bill is lawful. Last year, the Maryland Attorney General’s Office confirmed that it’s quite possible that a court would find that this bill is authorized as a safety measure under federal law and would not be pre-empted.

The committee has a thick folder on this legislation and has passed it to the floor each time it has come before us. I feel there is no need to rehash the merits of the amended bill and would request a favorable report again.