

ARTHUR ELLIS, CPA
Legislative District 28
Charles County

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Finance Committee

Vice Chair, Rules Committee

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on the
Management of Public Funds

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on
Workers' Compensation Benefit and
Insurance Oversight

Senate Chair, Charles County Delegation

Chair, Select Committee Southern
Maryland



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Sponsor Written Testimony: Favorable

Senate Bill 0156: Railroads-Required Crew for Movement of Freight

February 2, 2026

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and distinguished members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Senate Bill 0156 is a critical rail safety measure that requires a minimum of two qualified crew members to operate freight trains moving throughout the State of Maryland. This requirement is fundamental to ensuring the safety of railroad workers, first responders, communities, and critical infrastructure located along freight rail corridors.

In the event of an emergency—whether derailment, hazardous material release, mechanical failure, or medical incident—having a second crew member on board is essential. This provision recognizes Maryland's obligation to advance rail safety while also acknowledging the economic significance of maintaining the competitive position of the Port of Baltimore within the regional and national freight network. Importantly, Maryland would not be acting alone. A growing number of states have enacted similar two-person crew requirements, including Washington, California, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, West Virginia, New York, and most recently, New Jersey.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 0156. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur Ellis".

Arthur Ellis, CPA