

2223

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 17, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. ORTIZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT in relation to authorizing the commissioner of transportation to conduct a study regarding feasibility of expanding freight railroad service within the state

<The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-

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<bly, do enact as follows:>

1- 1 Section 1. The commissioner of transportation is authorized and
1- 2 directed to conduct a study regarding the feasibility of expanding
1- 3 freight railroad service within the state. Such study shall focus on the
1- 4 costs and benefits of such an expansion, and shall include, but not
1- 5 limited to:
1- 6 1. the economic impact of freight rail service on cities and other
1- 7 local municipalities;
1- 8 2. the environmental impact of expanded freight railroad service,
1- 9 including but not limited to:
1-10 a. the impact of noise on the affected environment resulting from,
1-11 engine idling, whistle blowing and general train operation;
1-12 b. the impact of engine emissions on air quality;
1-13 c. the impact of such service on local ecosystems and habitats;
1-14 3. the economic impact of freight railroad service on other freight
1-15 delivery carriers;
1-16 4. the economic costs to repair and maintain expanded freight railroad
1-17 service to make it a viable option for freight delivery as compared to
1-18 other freight delivery carriers;
1-19 5. the potential to build additional intermodal railroad yards, and
1-20 repair, expand and modernize existing intermodal railroad yards through-
1-21 out the state to serve as hubs for the loading and unloading of freight;
1-22 6. the availability of capital grants from the federal government to
1-23 assist in funding such a project;

EXPLANATION--Matter in <italics> (underscored) is new; matter in

brackets

[] is old law to be omitted.

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2- 1 7. a general cost benefit analysis regarding the expansion of freight
2- 2 railroad service within the state; and
2- 3 8. any other information the commissioner of transportation deems
2- 4 relevant.
2- 5 § 2. A report of the findings of such study and recommendations of the
2- 6 commissioner of transportation shall be delivered to the governor, the
2- 7 temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the
2- 8 minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly
2- 9 within one year after the effective date of this act.
2-10 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.