

STATE OF NEW YORK

3383

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 27, 2025

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

AN ACT in relation to establishing a freight rail safety task force; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. 1. There is hereby established the freight rail safety task  
2 force. The purpose of such task force is to review the state of freight  
3 rail safety in the state and make policy and budgetary recommendations  
4 related thereto.  
5 2. The freight rail safety task force shall consist of 11 members as  
6 follows: the commissioner of transportation or their designee, two

7 members appointed by the temporary president of the senate, one member

8 appointed by the minority leader of the senate, two members appointed by

9 the speaker of the assembly, one member appointed by the minority leader

10 of the assembly, and four members appointed by the governor.

11 3. The commissioner of transportation shall be designated as the

12 chairperson of the freight rail safety task force. The members of the

13 freight rail safety task force shall serve without compensation, except

14 that members shall be allowed their necessary and actual expenses

15 incurred in the performance of their duties under this act.

16 4. The task force shall be authorized to hold public hearings and

17 meetings, and to consult with any organization, educational institution,

18 or other government entity or person, to enable it to accomplish its

19 duties. Such task force shall hold at least one public hearing in the

20 state for the purpose of soliciting public comment on freight rail safe-

21 ty.

22 5. To effectuate the purposes of this act, the task force may request

23 and shall receive from any department, division, board, bureau, commis-

24 sion, or other agency of the state or any state public authority such

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

[-] is old law to be omitted.

1 assistance, information, and data as will enable  
the task force to prop-  
2 erly carry out its powers and duties hereunder.  
3 6. The task force shall undertake a review of the  
actions and measures  
4 that are needed to ensure safe, adequate,  
efficient, and reliable  
5 freight rail transportation and make  
recommendations regarding:  
6 a. enhanced coordination between the federal,  
state, and local regula-  
7 tors and officials regarding freight rail  
regulations, including an  
8 examination into how the relevant state  
agencies can share necessary  
9 information related to freight rail trains and  
their operators includ-  
10 ing, but not limited to, inspection status,  
registration status, heat  
11 safety gauge and other real-time safety  
information, safety plans, and  
12 other metrics that can help prevent catastrophic  
incidents;  
13 b. the establishment and adoption of a uniform  
safety training program  
14 for department of transportation engineers and  
local regulators;  
15 c. a review of federal laws and rules as they  
relate to the regulation  
16 of freight rail operations and operators,  
including but not limited to,  
17 identification of the subject areas specifically  
regulated by federal  
18 laws and rules, whether and to what extent such  
federal laws and rules  
19 preempt state action with respect to the  
regulation of freight rail  
20 safety, and areas of freight rail safety regulation  
which are subject to  
21 oversight by the state; and  
22 d. the need for additional freight rail safety  
measures.  
23 7. The freight rail safety task force shall  
issue a report of its

24 findings and recommendations to the governor, the  
temporary president of

25 the senate, and the speaker of the assembly no  
later than one year after

26 the effective date of this act.

27 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and  
shall expire and be

28 deemed repealed two years after such date.

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