

HCS HB 1117 -- MISSOURI AND MIDWEST RAIL INTEGRATION AND
IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION ACT

SPONSOR: Cierpiot (Brown, 50)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on
Transportation Funding and Public Institutions by a vote of 10 to
0.

This substitute establishes the Missouri and Midwest Rail
Integration and Improvement Commission Act and the Missouri and
Midwest Rail Integration and Improvement Commission consisting of
12 public members appointed by the Governor with the directors of
the departments of Transportation and Economic Development and
the chairperson of the Highways and Transportation Commission as
ex-officio members. The member qualifications, the procedure for
filling vacancies, and the reimbursement of travel expenses are
specified in the substitute.

The commission must:

- (1) Meet at least monthly until April 2013 and at least
quarterly thereafter;
- (2) Prepare and issue a report to the Governor, General
Assembly, and the public recommending the best governmental
structure for a public-private partnership to design, build,
operate, maintain, and finance an improved rail system for
Missouri and the Midwest by March 20, 2013. The report must
include specific recommendations for legislation; regulations;
funding sources; and ways to integrate the improved rail system
into existing and planned Amtrak expansions, airports, and public
transportation systems;
- (3) Issue a follow-up report by February 1, 2013, detailing the
status of its recommendations and any revised and updated
recommendations based on further public and stakeholder input;
- (4) Develop a process for receiving public and stakeholder input
on opinions and proposals for an improved rail system and to
include the solicitation and receipt of formal expressions of
interest and other testimony from global improved rail operators
including, without limitation, Amtrak;
- (5) Solicit and receive testimony from representatives of other
Midwestern states, including local governments; and
- (6) Work collaboratively with the Department of Transportation
on any planning projects for an improved rail system administered
by the department to comply with federal improved rail

requirements including the solicitation of public input.

The department may provide staff and other support to the commission from funds available to the department for this purpose. The General Assembly may also specifically appropriate funds to the department to provide staff and other support, and the commission may accept monetary or in-kind gifts from any public or private source. These provisions will not preclude the department from planning for any improved rail system.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there is a need to establish a commission working on the behalf of Missouri to expand rail development. Expanding improved rail systems is good for economic development, job creation, and development of a total transportation solution.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Brown (50); United Transportation Union; and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that it would be beneficial to have a representative of a class I freight railroad company on the commission.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Railroad Association.