

Submitter: Timothy Clarke

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

The critical nature of Senate bill 723 has led me to submit this testimony. The safety and security of trains and train crews should be paramount in today's environment. Prior reduction of train crew size has proven challenging in process and safety. I have personally experienced safety risks associated with trespassers on trains and railroad property. Beyond my personal concerns, I worry about the safety of citizens, communities, as well as, public and private properties. The realities of engineer only crews would reduce the survivability of an individual injured during critical incidents/medical emergencies. For example, if a train hits a person, automobile, or something else the railroad and Federal Railroad Administration rules require Engineers to secure trains (locomotive and train cars) prior to the engineer leaving the train to render aid, this could easily take more than fifteen minutes which may exceed the time available to take life saving actions. Additionally, if the engineer experiences a medical crisis, s/he is isolated in a potentially life threatening situation. This would absolutely increase legal actions to all associated parties. Hence the critical need to pass Senate bill 723 to protect train crews, citizens, and so much more.

Thank you for your consideration and desire to do the right thing.

Timothy Clarke