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Ninety-Third Congress, Session I
Public Law 93-236 — 87 Stat. 985 (H.R. 9142)
January 2, 1974

AN ACT *To authorize and direct the maintenance of adequate and efficient rail services in the Midwest and Northeast region of the United States, and for other purposes.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act, divided into titles and sections according to the following table of contents, may be cited as the "Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973".

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DECLARATION OF POLICY

SEC. 101. (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) Essential rail service in the midwest and northeast region of the United States is provided by railroads which are today insolvent and attempting to undergo reorganization under the Bankruptcy Act.

(2) This essential rail service is threatened with cessation or significant curtailment because of the inability of the trustees of such railroads to formulate acceptable plans of reorganization. This rail service is operated over rail properties which were acquired for a public use, but which have been permitted to deteriorate and now require extensive rehabilitation and modernization.

(3) The public convenience and necessity require adequate and efficient rail service in this region and throughout the Nation to meet the needs of commerce, the national defense, the environment, and the service requirements of passengers, United States mail, shippers, States and their political subdivisions, and consumers.

(4) Continuation and improvement of essential rail service in this region is also necessary to preserve and maintain adequate national rail services and an efficient national rail transportation system.

(5) Rail service and rail transportation offer economic and environmental advantages with respect to land use, air pollution, noise levels, energy efficiency and conservation, resource allocation, safety, and cost per ton-mile of movement to such extent that the preservation and maintenance of adequate and efficient rail service is in the national interest.

(6) These needs cannot be met without substantial action by the Federal Government.

(b) PURPOSES.—It is therefore declared to be the purpose of Congress in this Act to provide for—

(1) the identification of a rail service system in the midwest and northeast region which is adequate to meet the needs and service requirements of this region and of the national rail transportation system;

(2) the reorganization of railroads in this region into an economically viable system capable of providing adequate and efficient rail service to the region;

(3) the establishment of the United States Railway Association, with enumerated powers and responsibilities;

(4) the establishment of the Consolidated Rail Corporation, with enumerated powers and responsibilities;

(5) assistance to States and local and regional transportation authorities for continuation of local rail services threatened with cessation; and

(6) necessary Federal financial assistance at the lowest possible cost to the general taxpayer.

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 102. As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

(1) "Association" means the United States Railway Association, established under section 201 of this Act;

(2) "Commission" means the Interstate Commerce Commission;

(3) "Corporation" means the Consolidated Rail Corporation required to be established under section 301 of this Act;

(4) "effective date of the final system plan" means the date on which the final system plan or any revised final system plan is deemed approved by Congress, in accordance with section 208 of this Act;

(5) "employee stock ownership plan" means a technique of corporate finance that uses a stock bonus trust or a company stock money purchase pension trust which qualifies under section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 401(a)) in connection with the financing of corporate improvements, transfers in the ownership of corporate assets, and other capital requirements of a corporation and which is designed to build beneficial equity ownership of shares in the employer corporation into its employees substantially in proportion to their relative incomes,

without requiring any cash outlay, any reduction in pay or other employee benefits, or the surrender of any other rights on the part of such employees.

(6) "final system plan" means the plan of reorganization for the restructure, rehabilitation, and modernization of railroads in reorganization prepared pursuant to section 206 and approved pursuant to section 208 of this Act;

(7) "includes" and variants thereof should be read as if the phrase "but is not limited to" were also set forth;

(8) "Office" means the Rail Services Planning Office established under section 205 of this Act;

(9) "profitable railroad" means a railroad which is not a railroad in reorganization. The term does not include the Corporation, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, or a railroad leased, operated, or controlled by a railroad in reorganization in the region;

(10) "rail properties" means assets or rights owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by a railroad which are used or useful in rail transportation service; except that the term, when used in conjunction with the phase "railroads leased, operated, or controlled by a railroad in reorganization", shall not include assets or rights owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by a Class I railroad which is not wholly owned, operated, or leased by a railroad in reorganization but is controlled by a railroad in reorganization;

(11) "railroad" means a common carrier by railroad as defined in section 1(3) of part I of the Interstate Commerce Act (49 U.S.C. 1(3)). The term includes the Corporation and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation;

(12) "railroad in reorganization" means a railroad which is subject to a bankruptcy proceeding and which has not been determined by a court to be reorganizable or not

subject to reorganization pursuant to this Act as prescribed in section 207(b) of this Act. A "bankruptcy proceeding" includes a proceeding pursuant to section 77 of the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. 205) and an equity receivership or equivalent proceeding;

(13) "Region" means the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois; the District of Columbia; and those portions of contiguous States in which are located rail properties owned or operated by railroads doing business primarily in the aforementioned jurisdictions (as determined by the Commission by order);

(14) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Transportation or his delegate, unless the context indicates otherwise; and

(15) "State" means any State or the District of Columbia.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

FORMATION AND STRUCTURE

SEC. 201. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, in accordance with the provisions of this section, an incorporated nonprofit association to be known as the United States Railway Association.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Association shall be directed by a Board of Directors. The individuals designated, pursuant to subsection (d)(2) of this section, as the Government members of such Board shall be deemed the incorporators of the Association and shall take whatever steps are necessary to establish the Association, including filing of articles of incorporation, and serving as an acting Board of Directors for a period of not more than 45 days after the date of incorporation of the Association.

(c) STATUS.—The Association shall be a government corporation of the District of Columbia subject, to the extent not inconsistent with this title, to the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act (D.C. Code, sec. 29–1001 et seq.). Except as otherwise provided, employees of the Association shall not be deemed employees of the Federal Government. The Association shall have succession until dissolved by Act of Congress, shall maintain its principal office in the District of Columbia, and shall be deemed to be a resident of the District of Columbia with respect to venue in any legal proceeding.

(d) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The Board of Directors of the Association shall consist of 11 individuals, as follows:

(1) the Chairman, a qualified individual who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

(2) three Government members, who shall be the Secretary, the Chairman of the Commission, and the Secretary of the Treasury, or their duly authorized representatives; and

(3) seven nongovernment members, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, on the following basis—

(A) one to be selected from a list of qualified individuals recommended by the Association of American Railroads or its successor who are representatives of profitable railroads;

(B) one to be selected from a list of qualified individuals recommended by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations or its successor who are representative of railroad labor;

(C) one to be selected from a list of qualified individuals recommended by the National Governors Conference;

(D) one to be selected from a list of qualified individuals recommended by the National League of Cities and Conference of Mayors;

(E) two to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by shippers and organizations representative of significant shipping interests including small shippers;

(F) one to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by financial institutions, the financial community, and recognized financial leaders.

As used in this paragraph, a list of qualified individuals shall consist of not less than three individuals.

Except for the members appointed under paragraphs (1) and (3)(A), (B), (E), and (F), no member of the Board may have any employment or other direct financial relationship with any railroad. A member of the Board who is not otherwise an employee of the Federal Government may receive $300 per diem when engaged in the actual performance of his duties plus reimbursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of such duties.

(e) TERMS OF OFFICE.—The terms of office of the nongovernment members of the Board of Directors of the Association first taking office shall expire as designated by the President at the time of nomination—two at the end of the second year; two at the end of the fourth year; and three at the end of the sixth year. The term of office of the Chairman of such Board shall be 6 years. Successors to members of such Board shall be appointed in the same manner as the original members and, except in the case of government members, shall have terms of office expiring 6 years from the date of

expiration of the terms for which their predecessors were appointed. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of any term of office shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.

(f) QUORUM.—Beginning 45 days after the date of incorporation of the Association, six members of the Board, including three of the nongovernment members, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any function of the Association.

(g) PRESIDENT.—The Board of Directors of the Association, upon the recommendation of the Secretary, shall appoint a qualified individual to serve as the President of the Association at the pleasure of the Board. The President of the Association, subject to the direction of the Board, shall manage and supervise the affairs of the Association.

(h) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—The Board of Directors of the Association shall have an executive committee which shall consist of the Chairman of the Board, the Secretary, the Chairman of the Commission, and two other members who shall be selected by the members of the Board.

(i) MISCELLANEOUS.—(1) The Association shall have a seal which shall be judicially recognized.

(2) The Administrator of General Services shall furnish the Association with such offices, equipment, supplies, and services as he is authorized to furnish to any other agency or instrumentality of the United States.

(3) The Secretary is authorized to transfer to the Association or the Corporation rights in intellectual property which are directly related to the conduct of the functions of the Association or the Corporation, to the extent that the Federal Government has

such rights and to the extent that transfer is necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(j) USE OF NAMES.—No person, except the Association, shall hereafter use the words "United States Railway Association" as a name for any business purpose. No person, except the corporation directed to be established under section 301 of this Act, shall hereafter use the words "Consolidated Rail Corporation" as a name for any business purpose. Violations of these provisions may be enjoined by any court of general jurisdiction in an action commenced by the Association or the Corporation. In any such action, the Association or the Corporation may recover any actual damages flowing from such violation, and, in addition, shall be entitled to punitive damages (regardless of the existence or nonexistence of actual damage) in an amount not to exceed $100 for each day during which such violation was committed. The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction over actions brought under this subsection, without regard to the amount in controversy or the citizenship of the parties.

GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

SEC. 202. (a) GENERAL.—To carry out the purposes of this Act, the Association is authorized to—

(1) engage in the preparation and implementation of the final system plan;

(2) issue obligations under section 210 of this title and make loans under section 211 of this title;

(3) provide assistance to States and local or regional transportation authorities in accordance with section 403 of this Act;

(4) sue and be sued, complain and defend, in the name of the Association and through its own attorneys; adopt, amend, and repeal bylaws governing the operation of the Association and such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the authority granted under this Act; conduct its affairs, carry on operations, and maintain offices;

(5) appoint, fix the compensation, and assign the duties of such attorneys, agents, consultants, and other full- and part-time employees as it deems necessary or appropriate; except that (1) no officer of the Association, including the Chairman, may receive compensation at a rate in excess of that prescribed for level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5, United States Code; and (2) no individual may hold a position in violation of regulations which the Secretary shall establish to avoid conflicts of interest and to protect the interests of the public;

(6) acquire and hold such real and personal property as it deems necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its responsibilities under this Act, and to dispose of any such property held by it;

(7) consult with the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Engineers and request the assistance of the Corps of Engineers, and the Secretary of the Army may direct the Corps of Engineers to cooperate fully with the Association, the Corporation, or any entity designated in accordance with section 206(c)(1)(C) in order to carry out the purposes of this Act;

(8) consult on an ongoing basis with the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission and the Attorney General to assess the possible anticompetitive effects of various proposals and to negotiate provisions which would, to the greatest extent practicable in accordance with the purposes of this Act and the goal set forth in section 206(a)(5) of this title, alleviate any such anticompetitive effects;

(9) consult with representatives of science, industry, agriculture, labor, environmental protection and consumer organizations, and other groups, as it deems advisable; and

(10) enter into, without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (41 U.S.C. 5), such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as may be necessary in the conduct of its functions and duties with any person (including a government entity).

(b) DUTIES.—In addition to its duties and responsibilities under other provisions of this Act, the Association shall—

(1) prepare a survey of existing rail services in the region, including patterns of traffic movement; traffic density over identified lines; pertinent costs and revenues of lines; and plant, equipment, and facilities (includng yards and terminals);

(2) prepare an economic and operational study and analysis of present and future rail service needs in the region; the nature and volume of the traffic in the region now being moved by rail or likely to be moved by rail in the future; the extent to which available alternative modes of transportation could move such traffic as is now carried by railroads in reorganization; the relative economic, social, and environmental costs that would be involved in the use of such available alternative modes, including energy resource costs; and the competitive or other effects on profitable railroads;

(3) prepare a study of rail passenger services in the region, in terms of scope and quality;

(4) consider the views of the Office and of all government officials and persons who submit views, reports, or testimony under section 205(d)(1) of this title or in the course of proceedings conducted by the Office;

(5) consider methods of achieving economies in the cost of rail system operations in the region including consolidation, pooling, and joint use or operation of lines, facilities, and operating equipment; relocation; rehabilitation and modernization of equipment, track, and other facilities; and abandonment of lines consistent with meeting needs and service requirements; together with the anticipated economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of each such method;

(6) consider the effect on railroad employees of any restructuring of rail services in the region;

(7) make available to the Secretary, the Director of the Office and appropriate committees of the Congress all studies, data, and other information acquired or developed by the Association.

(c) INVESTMENT OF FUNDS.—Uncommitted funds of the Association shall be kept in cash on hand or on deposit, or invested in obligations of the United States or guaranteed thereby, or in obligations, participations, or other investments which are lawful investments for fiduciary, trust, or public funds.

(d) EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION.—The Association, including its franchise, capital reserves, surplus, security holdings, and income shall be exempt from all taxation now or hereafter imposed by the United States, any commonwealth, territory, dependency, or possession thereof, or by any State or political subdivision thereof, except that any real property of the Association shall be subject to taxation to the same extent according to its value as other real property is taxed.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Association shall transmit to the Congress and the President, not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, a comprehensive and detailed report on all activities of the Association during the preceding fiscal year. Each such report shall include (1) the Association's statement of specific and detailed

objectives for the activities and programs conducted and assisted under this Act; (2) statements of the Association's conclusions as to the effectiveness of such activities and programs in meeting the stated objectives and the purposes of this Act, measured through the end of the preceding fiscal year; (3) recommendations with respect to any legislation or administrative action which the Association deems necessary or desirable; (4) a statistical compilation of the obligations issued and loans made under this Act; (5) a summary of outstanding problems confronting the Association, in order of priority; (6) all other information required to be submitted to the Congress pursuant to any other provision of this Act; and (7) the Association's projections and plans for its activities and programs during the next fiscal year.

(f) BUDGET.—The receipts and disbursements of the Association (other than administrative expenses referred to in subsection (g) of this section) in the discharge of its functions shall not be included in the totals of the budget of the United States Government, and shall be exempt from any annual expenditure and net lending (budget outlays) limitations imposed on a budget of the United States Government. The Chairman of the Association shall transmit annually to the Congress a budget for program activities and for administrative expenses of the Association. The Chairman shall report annually to the Congress the amount of net lending of the Association, which would be included in the totals of the budgets of the United States Government, if the Association's activities were not excluded from those totals as a result of this section.

(g) ACCOUNTABILITY.—(1) Section 201 of the Government Corporation Control Act (31 U.S.C. 856) is amended by striking out "and" at the end of clause (6) and by inserting immediately before the period at the end thereof the following: ", (8) the United States Railway Association".

(2) The Chairman of the Association shall transmit annually to the Office of Management and Budget a budget for administrative expenses of the Association. Whenever the Association submits any budget estimate or request to the Office of Management and Budget, it shall concurrently transmit a copy of the estimate or request to the Congress. Within budgetary constraints of the Congress, the maximum feasible and prudent budgetary flexibility shall be provided to the Association to permit effective operations.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

SEC. 203. (a) PLANNING.—Each railroad operating in the region shall provide such relevant information as may be requested by the Secretary, the Office, or the Association in connection with the performance of their respective functions under any provision of this Act. No information may be requested under this subsection after the effective date of the final system plan.

(b) OTHER.—Each railroad or other person or government entity seeking financial assistance from the Association shall maintain and make available such records, make and submit such reports, and provide such data, materials, or other relevant information as may be requested by the Association.

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—Where authorized under subsection (a) or (b) of this section and upon presenting appropriate credentials and a written notice of inspection authority, any officer or employee duly designated by the Secretary, the Office, or the Association may, at reasonable times, inspect records, papers, processes, rolling stock, systems, equipment, or facilities and may, in furtherance of their respective functions under this Act, hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, administer such oaths, and require by subpoena or other order the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such information as is deemed advisable.

Subpoenas shall be issued under the signature of the Secretary, the Director of the Office, or the Chairman or President of the Association and may be served by any duly designated individual. In case of contumacy or refusal to obey such a subpoena or order by any person who resides, is found, or transacts business within the jurisdiction of any district court of the United States, such district court shall, upon petition, have jurisdiction to issue to such person an order requiring him to comply forthwith. Failure to obey such an order is punishable by such court as a contempt of court.

(d) CONGRESS.—Nothing in this section shall authorize the withholding of information from any duly authorized committee of the Congress.

REPORT

SEC. 204. (a) PREPARATION.—Within 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare a comprehensive report containing his conclusions and recommendations with respect to the geographic zones within the region in and between which rail service should be provided and the criteria upon which such conclusions and recommendations are based. The Secretary may use as a basis for the identification of such geographic zones the standard metropolitan statistical areas, groups of such areas, counties, or groups of counties having similar economic characteristics such as mining, manufacturing, or farming.

(b) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit the report required by subsection (a) of this section to the Office, the Association, the Governor and public utilities commission of each State studied in the report, local governments, consumer organizations, environmental groups, the public, and the Congress. The Secretary shall further cause a copy of the report to be published in the Federal Register.

RAIL SERVICES PLANNING OFFICE

SEC. 205. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, on the date of enactment of this Act, a new Office in the Commission to be known as the Rail Services Planning Office. The Office shall function continuously pursuant to the provisions of this Act, and shall cease to exist 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act. The Office shall be administered by a director.

(b) DIRECTOR.—The Director of the Office shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Commission with the concurrence of 5 members of the Commission. The Director of the Office shall administer and be responsible for the discharge of the functions and duties of the Office from the date he takes office unless removed for cause by the Commission. He shall be compensated at a rate to be set by the Chairman of the Commission without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, classification, and General Schedule pay rates, but at a rate not in excess of the maximum rate for GS–18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of such title.

(c) POWERS.—The Director of the Office is subject to the direction of, and shall report to, such member of the Commission as the Chairman thereof shall designate. The Chairman may designate himself as that member. Such Director is authorized, with the concurrence of such member or (in case of disagreement) the Chairman of the Commission, to—

(1) appoint, fix the compensation, and assign the duties of employees of the Office without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and to procure temporary and intermittent services to the same extent as is authorized under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed $250 a day for qualified experts. Each department, agency, and instrumentality of the executive branch of the Federal Government and each independent regulatory agency of the United States

is authorized and shall give careful consideration to a request to furnish to the Director of the Office, upon written request, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, such assistance as the Director deems necessary to carry out the functions and duties of the Office. Such assistance includes transfer of personnel with their consent and without prejudice to their position and rating; and

(2) enter into, without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (41 U.S.C. 5), such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as may be necessary in the conduct of the functions and duties of the Office, with any person (including a government entity).

(d) DUTIES.—In addition to its duties, and responsibilities under other provisions of this Act, the Office shall—

(1) study and evaluate the Secretary's report on rail services in the region required under section 204(a) of this Act and submit its report thereon to the Association within 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act. The Office shall also solicit, study, and evaluate the views with respect to present and future rail service needs of the region from Governors of States within the region; mayors and chief executives of political subdivisions within such States; shippers; the Secretary of Defense; manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers within the region; consumers of goods and products shipped by rail; and all other interested persons. The Office shall conduct public hearings to solicit comments on such report and to receive such views;

(2) employ and utilize the services of attorneys and such other personnel as may be required in order properly to protect the interests of those communities and users of rail service which, for whatever reason, such as their size or location, might not otherwise be adequately represented in the course of the hearings and

evaluations which the Office is required to conduct and perform under other provisions of this Act;

(3) within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, determine and publish standards for determining the "revenue attributable to the rail properties", the "avoidable costs of providing service", and "a reasonable return on the value", as those phrases are used in section 304 of this Act, after a proceeding in accordance with the provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

(4) assist States and local and regional transportation agencies in making determinations whether to provide rail service continuation subsidies to maintain in operation particular rail properties by establishing criteria for determining whether particular rail properties are suitable for rail service continuation subsidies. Such criteria should include the following considerations: Rail properties are suitable if the cost of the required subsidy for such properties per year to the taxpayers is less than the cost of termination of rail service over such properties measured by increased fuel consumption and operational costs for alternative modes of transportation; the cost to the gross national product in terms of reduced output of goods and services; the cost of relocating or assisting through unemployment, retraining, and welfare benefits to individuals and firms adversely affected thereby; and the cost to the environment measured by damage caused by increased pollution.

FINAL SYSTEM PLAN

SEC. 206. (a) GOALS.—The final system plan shall be formulated in such a way as to effectuate the following goals:

(1) the creation, through a process of reorganization, of a financially self-sustaining rail service system in the region;

(2) the estalishment and maintenance of a rail service system adequate to meet the rail transportation needs and service requirements of the region;

(3) the establishment of improved high-speed rail passenger service, consonant with the recommendations of the Secretary in his report of September 1971, entitled "Recommendations for Northeast Corridor Transportation";

(4) the preservation, to the extent consistent with other goals, of existing patterns of service by railroads (including short-line and terminal railroads), and of existing railroad trackage in areas in which fossil fuel natural resources are located, and the utilization of those modes of transportation in the region which require the smallest amount of scarce energy resources and which can most efficiently transport energy resources;

(5) the retention and promotion of competition in the provision of rail and other transportation services in the region;

(6) the attainment and maintenance of any environmental standards, particularly the applicable national ambient air quality standards and plans established under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970, taking into consideration the environmental impact of alternative choices of action;

(7) the movement of passengers and freight in rail transportation in the region in the most efficient manner consistent with safe operation, including the requirements of commuter and intercity rail passenger service; the extent to which there should be coordination with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation and similar entities; and the identification of all short-to-medium distance corridors in densely populated areas in which the major upgrading of rail lines for high-speed passenger operation would return substantial public benefits; and

(8) the minimization of job losses and associated increases in unemployment and community benefit costs in areas in the region presently served by rail service.

(b) FACTORS.—The final system plan shall be based upon due consideration of all factors relevant to the realization of the goals set forth in subsection (a) of this section. Such factors include the need for and the cost of rehabilitation and modernization of track, equipment, and other facilities; methods of achieving economies in the cost of rail operations in the region; means of achieving rationalization of rail services and the rail service system in the region; marketing studies; the impact on railroad employees; consumer needs; traffic analyses; financial studies; and any other factors identified by the Association under section 202(b) of this title or in the report of the Secretary required under section 204(a) of this title.

(c) DESIGNATIONS.—The final system plan shall designate—

(1) which rail properties of railroads in reorganization in the region or of railroads leased, operated, or controlled by any railroad in reorganization in the region—

(A) shall be transferred to the Corporation;

(B) shall be offered for sale to a profitable railroad operating in the region and, if such offer is accepted, operated by such railroad; the plan shall designate what additions shall be made to the designation under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph in the event such profitable railroad fails to accept such offer;

(C) shall be purchased, leased, or otherwise acquired from the Corporation by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation in accordance with the exercise of its option under section 601(d) of this Act for improvement to achieve the goal set forth in subsection (a)(3) of this section;

(D) may be purchased or leased from the Corporation by a State or a local or regional transportation authority to meet the needs of commuter and intercity rail passenger service; and

(E) if not otherwise required to be operated by the Corporation, a government entity, or a responsible person, are suitable for use for other public purposes, including highways, other forms of transportation, conservation, energy transmission, education or health care facilities, or recreation. In carrying out this subparagraph, the Association shall solicit the views and recommendations of the Secretary, the Secretary of the Interior, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and other agencies of the Federal Government and of the States and political subdivisions thereof within the region, and the general public; and

(2) which rail properties of profitable railroads operating in the region may be offered for sale to the Corporation or to other profitable railroads operating in the region subject to paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (d) of this section.

(d) TRANSFERS.—All transfers or conveyances pursuant to the final system plan shall be made in accordance with, and subject to, the following principles:

(1) All rail properties to be transferred to the Corporation by a profitable railroad, by trustees of a railroad in reorganization, or by any railroad leased, operated, or controlled by a railroad in reorganization in the region, shall be transferred in exchange for stock and other securities of the Corporation (including obligations of the Association) and the other benefits accruing to such railroad by reason of such transfer.

(2) All rail properties to be conveyed to a profitable railroad operating in the region by trustees of a railroad in reorganization, or by any railroad leased, operated, or

controlled by a railroad in reorganization in the region, shall be conveyed in exchange for compensation from the profitable railroad.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no acquisition under this Act shall be made by any profitable railroad operating in the region without a determination with respect to each such transaction and all such transactions cumulatively (A) by the Association, upon adoption and release of the preliminary system plan, that such acquisition or acquisitions will not materially impair the profitability of any other profitable railroad operating in the region or of the Corporation, and (B) by the Commission, which shall be made within 90 days after adoption and release by the Association of the preliminary system plan, that such acquisition or acquisitions will be in full accord and comply with the provisions and standards of section 5 of part I of the Interstate Commerce Act (49 U.S.C. 5). The determination by the Association shall not be reviewable in any court. The determination by the Commission shall not be reviewable in any court.

(4) Where the final system plan designates specified rail properties of a railroad in reorganization in the region, or of a railroad leased, operated, or controlled by a railroad in reorganization in the region, to be offered for sale to and operated by a profitable railroad operating in the region, such designation shall terminate 30 days after the effective date of the final system plan unless, prior to such date, such profitable railroad has notified the Association in writing of its acceptance of such offer. Where the final system plan designates specified rail properties of a profitable railroad operating in the region as authorized to be offered for sale or lease to the Corporation or to other profitable railroads operating in the region, such designation and authorization shall terminate 60 days after the effective date of the final system plan unless, prior to such date, a binding agreement with respect to such properties has been entered into and concluded.

(5) All properties sold by the Corporation pursuant to sections 206(c)(1)(C) and 601(d) of this Act shall be transferred at a value related to the value received for the transfer to the Corporation of such properties.

(e) CORPORATION FEATURES.—The final system plan shall set forth—

(1) pro forma earnings for the Corporation, as reasonably projected and considering the additions or changes in the designation of rail properties to be operated by the Corporation which may be made under subsection (d)(4) of this section;

(2) the capital structure of the Corporation, based on the pro forma earnings of the Corporation as set forth, including such debt capitalization as shall be reasonably deemed to conform to the requirements of the public interest with respect to railroad debt securities, including the adequacy of coverage of fixed charges; and

(3) the manner in which employee stock ownership plans may, to the extent practicable, be utilized for meeting the capitalization requirements of the Corporation, taking into account (A) the relative cost savings compared to conventional methods of corporate finance; (B) the labor cost savings; (C) the potential for minimizing strikes and producing more harmonious relations between labor organizations and railway management; (D) the projected employee dividend incomes; (E) the impact on quality of service and prices to railway users; and (F) the promotion of the objectives of this Act of creating a financially self-sustaining railway system in the region which also meets the service needs of the region and the Nation.

(f) VALUE.—The final system plan shall designate the value of all rail properties to be transferred under the final system plan and the value of the securities and other benefits to be received for transferring those rail properties to the Corporation in accordance with the final system plan.

(g) OTHER PROVISIONS.—The final system plan may recommend arrangements among various railroads for joint use or operation of rail properties on a shared ownership, cooperative, pooled, or condominium-type basis, subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified in the final system plan. The final system plan shall also make such designations as are determined to be necessary in accordance with the provisions of section 402 or 403 of this Act.

(h) OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY.—The final system plan shall recommend the amount of obligations of the Association which are necessary to enable it to implement the final system plan.

(i) TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SECURITIES.—The final system plan may include terms and conditions for any securities to be issued by the Corporation in exchange for the conveyance of rail properties under the final system plan which in the judgement of the Association will minimize any actual or potential debt burden on the Corporation. Any such terms and conditions for securities of the Corporation which purport to directly obligate the Association shall not become effective without affirmative approval, with or without modification by a joint resolution of the Congress.

ADOPTION OF FINAL SYSTEM PLAN

SEC. 207. (a) PRELIMINARY SYSTEM PLAN.—(1) Within 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Association shall adopt and release a preliminary system plan prepared by it on the basis of reports and other information submitted to it by the Secretary, the Office, and interested persons in accordance with this Act and on the basis of its own investigations, consultations, research, evaluation, and analysis pursuant to this Act. Copies of the preliminary system plan shall be transmitted by the Association to the Secretary, the Office, the Governor and public utility commission

of each State in the region, the Congress, each court having jurisdiction over a railroad in reorganization in the region, the special court, and interested persons, and a copy shall be published in the Federal Register. The Association shall invite and afford interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the preliminary system plan to the Association within 60 days after the date of its release.

(2) The Office is authorized and directed to hold public hearings on the preliminary system plan and to make available to the Association a summary and analysis of the evidence received in the course of such proceedings, together with its critique and evaluation of the preliminary system plan, not later than 60 days after the date of release of such plan.

(b) APPROVAL.—Within 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act each United States district court or other court having jurisdiction over a railroad in reorganization shall decide whether the railroad is reorganizable on an income basis within a reasonable time under section 77 of the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. 205) and that the public interest would be better served by continuing the present reorganization proceedings than by a reorganization under this Act. Within 60 days after the submission of the report by the Office, under section 205(d)(1) of this title, on the Secretary's report on rail services in the region, each United States district court or other court having jurisdiction over a railroad in reorganization shall decide whether or not such railroad shall be reorganized by means of transferring some of its rail properties to the Corporation pursuant to the provisions of this Act. Because of the strong public interest in the continuance of rail transportation in the region pursuant to a system plan devised under the provisions of this Act, each such court shall order that the reorganization be proceeded with pursuant to this Act unless it (1) has found that the railroad is reorganizable on an income basis within a reasonable time under section 77 of the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. 205) and that the public interest would be

better served by such a reorganization than by a reorganization under this Act, or (2) finds that this Act does not provide a process which would be fair and equitable to the estate of the railroad in reorganization in which case it shall dismiss the reorganization proceeding. If a court does not enter an order or make a finding as required by this subsection, the reorganization shall be proceeded with pursuant to this Act. An appeal from an order made under this section may be made only to the special court. Appeal to the special court shall be taken within 10 days following entry of an order pursuant to this subsection, and the special court shall complete its review and render its decision within 80 days after such appeal is taken. There shall be no review of the decision of the special court.

(c) ADOPTION.—Within 420 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the executive committee of the Association shall prepare and submit a final system plan for the approval of the Board of Directors of the Association. A copy of such submission shall be simultaneously presented to the Commission. The submission shall reflect evaluation of all responses and summaries of responses received, testimony at any public hearings, and the results of additional study and review. Within 30 days thereafter, the Board of Directors of the Association shall by a majority vote of all its members approve a final system plan which meets all of the requirements of section 206 of this title.

(d) REVIEW OF COMMISSION.—Within 30 days following the adoption of the final system plan by the Association under subsection (c) of this section and the submission of such plan to Congress under section 208(a) of this title, the Commission shall submit to the Congress an evaluation of the final system plan delivered to both Houses of Congress.

REVIEW BY CONGRESS

SEC. 208. (a) GENERAL.—The Board of Directors of the Association shall deliver the final system plan adopted by the Association to both Houses of Congress and to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce of the Senate. The final system plan shall be deemed approved at the end of the first period of 60 calendar days of continuous session of Congress after such date of transmittal unless either the House of Representatives or the Senate passes a resolution during such period stating that it does not favor the final system plan.

(b) REVISED PLAN.—If either the House or the Senate passes a resolution of disapproval under subsection (a) of this section, the Association, with the cooperation and assistance of the Secretary and the Office, shall prepare, determine, and adopt a revised final system plan. Each such revised plan shall be submitted to Congress for review pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(c) COMPUTATION.—For purposes of this section—

(1) continuity of session of Congress is broken only by an adjournment sine die; and

(2) the days on which either House is not in session because of an adjournment of more than 3 days to a day certain are excluded in the computation of the 60-day period.

JUDICIAL REVIEW

SEC. 209. (a) GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the final system plan which is adopted by the Association and which becomes effective after review by the Congress is not subject to review by any court except in accordance with this section. After the final system plan becomes effective under section 208 of this title, it may be reviewed with respect to matters concerning the value of the rail

properties to be conveyed under the plan and the value of the consideration to be received for such properties.

(b) SPECIAL COURT.—Within 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Association shall make application to the judicial panel on multi-district litigation authorized by section 1407 of title 28, United States Code, for the consolidation in a single, three-judge district court of the United States of all judicial proceedings with respect to the final system plan. Within 30 days after such application is received, the panel shall make the consolidation in a district court (cited herein as the "special court") which the panel determines to be convenient to the parties and the one most likely to be able to conduct any proceedings under this section with the least delay and the greatest possible fairness and ability. Such proceedings shall be conducted by the special court which shall be composed of three Federal judges who shall be selected by the panel, except that none of the judges selected may be a judge assigned to a proceeding involving any railroad in reorganization in the region under section 77 of the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. 205). The special court is authorized to exercise the powers of a district judge in any judicial district with respect to such proceedings and such powers shall include those of a reorganization court. The special court shall have the power to order the conveyance of rail properties of railroads leased, operated, or controlled by a railroad in reorganization in the region. The panel may issue rules for the conduct of its functions under this subsection. No determination by the panel under this subsection may be reviewed in any court.

(c) DELIVERY OF PLAN TO SPECIAL COURT.—Within 90 days after its effective date, the Association shall deliver a certified copy of the final system plan to the special court and shall certify to the special court—

(1) which rail properties of the respective railroads in reorganization in the region and of any railroad leased, operated, or controlled by such railroads in reorganization are to be transferred to the Corporation, in accordance with the final system plan;

(2) which rail properties of the respective railroads in reorganization in the region or railroads leased, operated, or controlled by such railroads in reorganization are to be conveyed to profitable railroads, in accordance with the final system plan;

(3) the amount, terms, and value of the securities of the Corporation (including any obligations of the Association) to be exchanged for those rail properties to be transferred to the Corporation pursuant to the final system plan, and as indicated in paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

(4) that the transfer of rail properties in exchange for securities of the Corporation (including any obligations of the Association) and other benefits is fair and equitable and in the public interest.

(d) BANKRUPTCY COURTS.—Within 90 days after its effective date, the Association shall deliver a certified copy of the final system plan to each district court of the United States or any other court having jurisdiction over a railroad in reorganization in the region and shall certify to each such court—

(1) which rail properties of that railroad in reorganization are to be transferred to the Corporation under the final system plan; and

(2) which rail properties of that railroad in reorganization, if any, are to be conveyed to profitable railroads operating in the region, under the final system plan.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION

SEC. 210. (a) GENERAL.—To carry out the purposes of this Act, the Association is authorized to issue bonds, debentures, trust certificates, securities, or other obligations (herein cited as "obligations") in accordance with this section. Such obligations shall have such maturities and bear such rate or rates of interest as are determined by the Association with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. Such obligations shall be redeemable at the option of the Association prior to maturity in the manner stipulated in each such obligation, and may be purchased by the Association in the open market at a price which is reasonable.

(b) MAXIMUM OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY.—Except as otherwise provided in the last sentence of this subsection, the aggregate amount of obligations of the Association issued under this section which may be outstanding at any one time shall not exceed $1,500,000,000 of which the aggregate amount issued to the Corporation shall not exceed $1,000,000,000. Of the aggregate amount of obligations issued to the Corporation by the Association, not less than $500,000,000 shall be available solely for the rehabilitation and modernization of rail properties acquired by the Corporation under this Act and not disposed of by the Corporation pursuant to section 206(c)(1)(C) of this Act. Any modification to the limitations set forth in this subsection shall be made by joint resolution adopted by the Congress.

(c) GUARANTEES.—The Secretary shall guarantee the payment of principal and interest on all obligations issued by the Association in accordance with this Act and which the Association requests be guaranteed.

(d) VALIDITY.—No obligation issued by the Association under this section shall be terminated, canceled, or otherwise revoked, except in accordance with lawful terms and conditions prescribed by the Association. Such an obligation shall be conclusive evidence that it is in compliance with this section, has been approved, and is legal as to principal, interest, and other terms. An obligation of the Association shall be valid

and incontestable in the hands of a holder, except as to fraud, duress, mutual mistake of fact, or material misrepresentation by or involving such holder.

(e) THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—If at any time the moneys available to the Secretary are insufficient to enable him to discharge his responsibilities under subsection (c) of this section, he shall issue notes or other obligations to the Secretary of the Treasury in such forms and denominations, bearing such maturities, and subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Such obligations shall bear interest at a rate to be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury taking into consideration the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States of comparable maturities during the month preceding the issuance of such obligations. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to purchase any such obligations and for such purpose is authorized to use as a public debt transaction the proceeds from the sale of any securities issued under the Second Liberty Bond Act, as amended. The purposes for which securities may be issued under such Act are extended to include any purchase of notes or other obligations issued under this subsection. At any time, the Secretary of the Treasury may sell any such obligations, and all sales, purchases, and redemptions of such obligations by the Secretary of the Treasury shall be treated as public debt transactions of the United States.

(f) AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such amounts as are necessary to discharge the obligations of the United States arising under this section.

(g) LAWFUL INVESTMENTS.—All obligations issued by the Association shall be lawful investments and may be accepted as security for all fiduciary, trust, and public funds, the investment or deposit of which shall be under the authority and control of the United States or any officer or officers thereof. All such obligations issued pursuant to

this section shall be exempt securities within the meaning of laws administered by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

LOANS

SEC. 211. (a) GENERAL.—The Association is authorized, in accordance with the provisions of this section and such rules and regulations as it shall prescribe, to make loans to the Corporation, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, and other railroads (including a railroad in reorganization which has been found to be reorganizable under section 77 of the Bankruptcy Act pursuant to section 207(b) of this title) in the region, for purposes of assisting in the implementation of the final system plan; to a State or local or regional transportation authority pursuant to section 403 of this Act; and to provide assistance in the form of loans to any railroad which (A) connects with a railroad in reorganization, and (B) is in need of financial assistance to avoid reorganization proceedings under section 77 of the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. 205). No such loan shall be made by the Association to a railroad unless such loans shall, where applicable, be treated as an expense of administration. The rights referred to in the last sentence of section 77(j) of the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. 205(j)) shall in no way be affected by this Act.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—Each application for such a loan shall be made in writing to the Association in such form and with such content and other submissions as the Association shall prescribe to protect reasonably the interests of the United States. The Association shall publish a notice of the receipt of each such application in the Federal Register and shall afford interested persons an opportunity to comment thereon.

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Each loan shall be extended in such form, under such terms and conditions, and pursuant to such regulations as the Association deems

appropriate. Such loan shall bear interest at a rate not less than the greater of a rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury taking into consideration (1) the rate prevailing in the private market for similar loans as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, or (2) the current average yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the Association with remaining periods of maturity comparable to the average maturities of such loans, plus such additional charge, if any, toward covering costs of the Association as the Association may determine to be consistent with the purposes of this Act.

(d) MODIFICATIONS.—The Association is authorized to approve any modification of any provision of a loan under this section, including the rate of interest, time of payment of interest or principal, security, or any other term or condition, upon agreement of the recipient of the loan and upon a finding by the Association that such modification is equitable and necessary or appropriate to achieve the policy declared in subsection (f) of this section.

(e) PREREQUISITES.—The Association shall make a finding in writing, before making a loan to any applicant under this section, that—

(1) the loan is necessary to carry out the final system plan or to prevent insolvency;

(2) it is satisfied that the business affairs of the applicant will be conducted in a reasonable and prudent manner; and

(3) the applicant has offered such security as the Association deems necessary to protect reasonably the interests of the United States.

(f) POLICY.—It is the intent of Congress that loans made under this section shall be made on terms and conditions which furnish reasonable assurance that the Corporation or the railroads to which such loans are granted will be able to repay

them within the time fixed and that the goals of the final system plan are reasonably likely to be achieved.

RECORDS, AUDIT, AND EXAMINATION

SEC. 212. (a) RECORDS.—Each recipient of financial assistance under this title, whether in the form of loans, obligations, or other arrangements, shall keep such records as the Association or the Secretary shall prescribe, including records which fully disclose the amount and disposition by such recipient of the proceeds of such assistance and such other records as will facilitate an effective audit.

(b) AUDIT AND EXAMINATION.—The Association, the Secretary, and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives shall, until the expiration of 3 years after the implementation of the final system plan, have access for the purpose of audit and examination to any books, documents, papers, and records of such recipients which in the opinion of the Association, the Secretary, or the Comptroller General may be related or pertinent to the loans, obligations or other arrangements referred to in subsection (a) of this section. The Association or any of its duly authorized representatives shall, until any financial assistance received under this title has been repaid to the Association, have access to any such materials which concern any matter that may bear upon—

(1) the ability of the recipient of such financial assistance to make repayment within the time fixed therefor;

(2) the effectiveness with which the proceeds of such assistance is used; and

(3) the implementation of the final system plan and the realization of the declaration of policy of this Act.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PENDING IMPLEMENTATION

SEC. 213. (a) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary is authorized, pending the implementation of the final system plan, to pay to the trustees of railroads in reorganization such sums as are necessary for the continued provision of essential transportation services by such railroads. Such payments shall be made by the Secretary upon such reasonable terms and conditions as the Secretary establishes, except that recipients must agree to maintain and provide service at a level no less than that in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for carrying out this section such sums as are necessary, not to exceed $85,000,000, to remain available until expended.

AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 214. (a) SECRETARY.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for purposes of preparing the reports and exercising other functions to be performed by him under this Act such sums as are necessary, not to exceed $12,500,000, to remain available until expended.

(b) OFFICE.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission for the use of the Office in carrying out its functions under this Act such sums as are necessary, not to exceed $5,000,000, to remain available until expended. The budget for the Office shall be submitted by the Commission directly to the Congress and shall not be subject to review of any kind by any other agency or official of the United States. Moneys appropriated for the Office shall not be withheld by any agency or official of the United States or used by the Commission for any purpose other than the use of the Office. No part of any other moneys appropriated to the Commission shall be withheld by any other agency or official of the United States to offset any moneys appropriated pursuant to this subsection.

(c) ASSOCIATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Association for purposes of carrying out its administrative expenses under this Act such sums as are necessary, not to exceed $26,000,000, to remain available until expended.

MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF PLANT

SEC. 215. Prior to the date upon which rail properties are conveyed to the Corporation under this Act, the Secretary, with the approval of the Association, is authorized to enter into agreements with railroads in reorganization in the region (or railroads leased, operated, or controlled by railroads in reorganization) for the acquisition, maintenance, or improvement of railroad facilities and equipment necessary to improve property that will be in the final system plan. Agreements entered into pursuant to this section shall specifically identify the type and quality of improvements to be made pursuant to such agreements. Notwithstanding section 210(b) of this title, the Association shall issue obligations under section 210(a) of this title in an amount sufficient to finance such agreements and shall require the Corporation to assume any such obligations. However, the Association may not issue obligations under this section in an aggregate amount in excess of $150,000,000. The Secretary may not enter into any agreements under this section until he issues regulations setting forth procedures and guidelines for the administration of this section. The Corporation shall not be required under title III of this Act to compensate any railroad in reorganization for that portion of the value of rail properties transferred to it under this Act which is attributable to the acquisition, maintenance, or improvement of such properties under this section.

TITLE III—CONSOLIDATED RAIL CORPORATION

FORMATION AND STRUCTURE

SEC. 301. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be established within 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with the provisions of this section, a corporation to be known as the Consolidated Rail Corporation.

(b) STATUS.—The Corporation shall be a for-profit corporation established under the laws of a State and shall not be an agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government. The Corporation shall be deemed a common carrier by railroad under section 1(3) of the Interstate Commerce Act (49 U.S.C. 1(3)), shall be subject to the provisions of this Act and, to the extent not inconsistent with such Acts, shall be subject to applicable State law. The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in Philadelphia in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(c) INCORPORATORS.—The members of the executive committee of the Association shall be the incorporators of the Corporation and shall take whatever steps are necessary to establish the Corporation, including the filing of articles of incorporation. The incorporators shall also serve as the Board of Directors of the Corporation until the stock and other securities of the Corporation are distributed to the estates of the railroads in accordance with section 303(c) of this title and shall adopt the intial bylaws of the Corporation.

(d) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall consist of 15 individuals selected in accordance with the articles and bylaws of the Corporation: *Provided*, That so long as 50 per centum or more, as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, of the outstanding indebtedness of the Corporation consists of obligations of the Association or other debts owing to or guaranteed by the United States, three of the members of such board shall be the Secretary, the Chairman and the President of the Association and five of the members of such board shall be individuals appointed as such by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(e) INITIAL CAPITALIZATION.—In order to carry out the final system plan the Corporation is authorized to issue stock and other securities. Common stock shall be issued initially to the estates of railroads in reorganization in the region in exchange for rail properties conveyed to the Corporation pursuant to the final system plan. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the Corporation from repurchasing the common stock initially issued through payments out of profits in order to establish an employee stock ownership plan; and nothing in this subsection shall preclude the recipients of common stock initially issued from establishing an employee stock ownership plan.

(f) AUDIT AND EXPENDITURES.—So long as 50 per centum or more, as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, of the outstanding indebtedness of the Corporation consists of obligations of the Association or other debts owing to or guaranteed by the United States, the Corporation shall be subject to the provisions of the Government Corporation Control Act for the purposes of a Federal Government audit. Section 201 of the Government Corporation Control Act (31 U.S.C. 856) is amended by inserting at the end thereof the following: ", and (9) the Consolidated Rail Corporation to the extent provided in the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973.".

(g) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Corporation shall transmit to the Congress and the President, not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, a comprehensive and detailed report on all activities and accomplishments of the Corporation during the preceding fiscal year.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE CORPORATION

SEC. 302. The Corporation shall have all of the powers and is subject to all of the duties vested in it under this Act, in addition to the powers conferred upon it under

the laws of the State or States in which it is incorporated and the powers of a railroad in any State in which it operates. The Corporation is authorized and directed to—

(a) acquire rail properties designated in the final system plan to be transferred or conveyed to it;

(b) operate rail service over such rail properties except as provided under sections 304(e) and 601(d)(3) of this Act;

(c) rehabilitate, improve, and modernize such rail properties; and

(d) maintain adequate and efficient rail services.

So long as 50 per centum or more, as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, of the outstanding indebtedness of the Corporation consists of obligations of the Association or other debts owing to or guaranteed by the United States, the Corporation shall not engage in activities which are not related to transportation.

VALUATION AND CONVEYANCE OF RAIL PROPERTIES

SEC. 303. (a) DEPOSIT WITH COURT.—Within 10 days after delivery of a certified copy of a final system plan pursuant to section 209(c) of this Act—

(1) the Corporation, in exchange for the rail properties of the railroads in reorganization in the region and of railroads leased, operated, or controlled by railroads in reorganization in the region to be transferred to the Corporation, shall deposit with the special court all of the stock and other securities of the Corporation and obligations of the Association designated in the final system plan to be exchanged for such rail properties;

(2) each profitable railroad operating in the region purchasing rail properties from a railroad in reorganization in the region, or from a railroad leased, operated, or

controlled by a railroad in reorganization in the region, as provided in the final system plan shall deposit with the special court the compensation to be paid for such rail properties.

(b) CONVEYANCE OF RAIL PROPERTIES.—(1) The special court shall, within 10 days after deposit under subsection (a) of this section of the securities of the Corporation, obligations of the Association, and compensation from the profitable railroads operating in the region, order the trustee or trustees of each railroad in reorganization in the region to convey forthwith to the Corporation and the respective profitable railroads operating in the region, all right, title, and interest in the rail properties of such railroad in reorganization and shall itself order the conveyance of all right, title, and interest in the rail properties of any railroad leased, operated, or controlled by such railroad in reorganization that are to be conveyed to them under the final system plan as certified to such court under section 209(d) of this Act.

(2) All rail properties conveyed to the Corporation and the respective profitable railroads operating in the region under this section shall be conveyed free and clear of any liens or encumbrances, but subject to such leases and agreements as shall have previously burdened such properties or bound the owner or operator thereof in pursuance of an arrangement with any State, or local or regional transportation authority under which financial support from such State, or local or regional transportation authority was being provided at the time of enactment of this Act for the continuance of rail passenger service or any lien or encumbrance of no greater than 5 years' duration which is necessary for the contractual performance by any person of duties related to public health or sanitation. Such conveyances shall not be restrained or enjoined by any court.

(3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, if railroad rolling stock is included in the rail properties to be conveyed, such conveyance may only be

effected if the profitable railroad operating in the region or the Corporation to whom the conveyance is made assumes all of the obligations under any conditional sale agreement, equipment trust agreement, or lease in respect to such rolling stock and such conveyance is made subject thereto; and the provisions of this Act shall not affect the title and interests of any lessor, equipment trust trustee, or conditional sale vendee or assignee under such conditional sale agreement, equipment trust agreement or lease under section 77(j) of the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. 205(j)).

(4) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, if a railroad in reorganization has leased rail properties from a lessor that is neither a railroad nor controlled by or affiliated with a railroad, and such lease has been approved by the lessee railroad's reorganization court prior to the date of enactment of this Act, conveyance of such lease may only be effected if the Corporation or the profitable railroad to whom the conveyance is made assumes all of the terms and conditions specified in the lease, including the obligation to pay the specified rent to the non-railroad lessor.

(c) FINDINGS AND DISTRIBUTION.—(1) After the rail properties have been conveyed to the Corporation and profitable railroads operating in the region under subsection (b) of this section, the special court, giving due consideration to the findings contained in the final system plan, shall decide—

(A) whether the transfers or conveyances—

(i) of rail properties of each railroad in reorganization, or of each railroad leased, operated, or controlled by a railroad in reorganization, to the Corporation in exchange for the securities and the other benefits accruing to such railroad as a result of such exchange, as provided in the final system plan and this Act, and

(ii) of rail properties of each railroad in reorganization, or of each railroad leased, operated, or controlled by a railroad in reorganization, to a profitable railroad operating in the region, in accordance with the final system plan,

are in the public interest and are fair and equitable to the estate of each railroad in reorganization in accordance with the standard of fairness and equity applicable to the approval of a plan of reorganization or a step in such a plan under section 77 of the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. 205), or fair and equitable to a railroad that is not itself in reorganization but which is leased, operated, or controlled by a railroad in reorganization; and

(B) whether the transfers or conveyances are more fair and equitable than is required as a constitutional minimum.

(2) If the special court finds that the terms of one or more exchanges for securities and other benefits are not fair and equitable to an estate of a railroad in reorganization, or to a railroad leased, operated, or controlled by a railroad in reorganization, which has transferred rail properties pursuant to the final system plan, it shall—

(A) enter a judgment reallocating the securities of the Corporation in a fair and equitable manner if it has not been fairly allocated among the railroads transferring rail properties to the Corporation; and

(B) if the lack of fairness and equity cannot be completely cured by a reallocation of the Corporation's securities, order the Corporation to provide for the transfer to the railroad of other securities of the Corporation or obligations of the Association as designated in the final system plan in such nature and amount as would make the exchange or exchanges fair and equitable; and

(C) if the lack of fairness and equity cannot be completely cured by reallocation of the Corporation's securities or by providing for the transfer of other securities of the Corporation or obligations of the Association as designated in the final system plan, enter a judgment against the Corporation.

(3) If the special court finds that the terms of one or more conveyances of rail properties to a profitable railroad operating in the region in accordance with the final system plan are not fair and equitable, it shall enter a judgment against such profitable railroad. If the special court finds that the terms of one or more conveyances or exchanges for securities or other benefits are fairer and more equitable than is required as a constitutional minimum, then it shall order the return of any excess securities, obligations, or compensation to the Corporation or a profitable railroad so as not to exceed the constitutional minimum standard of fairness and equity.

(4) Upon making the findings referred to in this subsection, the special court shall order distribution of the securities, obligations, and compensation deposited with it under subsection (b) of this section to the trustee or trustees of each railroad in reorganization in the region who conveyed right, title, and interest in rail properties to the Corporation and the respective profitable railroads under such subsection.

(d) APPEAL.—A finding or determination entered pursuant to subsection (c) of this section may be appealed directly to the Supreme Court of the United States in the same manner that an injunction order may be appealed under section 1253 of title 28, United States Code: *Provided*, That such appeal is exclusive and shall be filed in the Supreme Court not more than 5 days after such finding or determination is entered by the special court. The Supreme Court shall dismiss any such appeal within 7 days after the entry of such an appeal if it determines that such an appeal would not be in the interest of an expeditious conclusion of the proceedings and shall grant the highest priority to the determination of any such appeals which it determines not to dismiss.

TERMINATION OF RAIL SERVICE

SEC. 304. (a) DISCONTINUANCE.—Except as provided in subsections (c) and (f) of this section, (1) rail service on rail properties of a railroad in the region which transfers to the Corporation or to profitable railroads operating in the region all or substantially all of its rail properties designated for such conveyance in the final system plan, and (2) rail service on rail properties of a profitable railroad operating in the region which transfers substantially all of its rail properties to the Corporation or to other railroads pursuant to the final system plan may be discontinued to the extent such discontinuance is not precluded by the terms of the leases and agreements referred to in section 303(b)(2) of this title if—

(A) the final system plan does not designate rail service to be operated over such rail properties; and

(B) not sooner than 30 days following the effective date of the final system plan the trustee or trustees of the applicable railroad in reorganization or a profitable railroad give notice in writing of intent to discontinue such rail service on a date certain which is not less than 60 days after the date of such notice; and

(C) the notice required by paragraph (B) of this subsection is sent by certified mail to the Governor and State transportation agencies of each State and to the government of each political subdivision of each State in which such rail properties are located and to each shipper who has used such rail service during the previous 12 months.

(b) ABANDONMENT.—(1) Rail properties over which rail service has been discontinued under subsection (a) of this section may not be abandoned sooner than 120 days after the effective date of such discontinuance except as provided in subsections (c) and (f) of this section. Thereafter, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, such rail properties may be abandoned upon 30 days' notice in

writing to all those required to receive notice under paragraph (2)(C) of subsection (a) of this section.

(2) In any case in which rail properties proposed to be abandoned under this section are designated by the final system plan as rail properties which are suitable for use for other public purposes (including roads or highways, other forms of mass transportation, conservation, and recreation), such rail properties shall not be sold, leased, exchanged, or otherwise disposed of during the 180-day period beginning on the date of notice of proposed abandonment under this section unless such rail properties have first been offered, upon reasonable terms, for acquisition for public purposes.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—Rail service may be discontinued and rail properties may be abandoned under subsections (a) and (b) of this section notwithstanding any provision of the Interstate Commerce Act (49 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) or the constitution or law of any State or the decision of any court or administrative agency of the United States or of any State. No rail service may be discontinued and no rail properties may be abandoned pursuant to this section—

(1) after 2 years from the effective date of the final system plan or more than 2 years after the final payment of any rail service continuation subsidy is received, whichever is later; or

(2) if a shipper, a State, the United States, a local or regional transportation authority, or any responsible person offers—

> (A) a rail service continuation subsidy which covers the difference between the revenue attributable to such rail properties and the avoidable costs of providing service on such rail properties plus a reasonable return on the value of such rail properties;

(B) a rail service continuation subsidy which is payable pursuant to a lease or agreement with a State, or a local or regional transportation authority, under which financial support was being provided at the time of the enactment of this Act for the continuance of rail passenger service; or

(C) to purchase, pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, such rail properties in order to operate rail service over such properties.

If a rail service continuation subsidy is offered, the government or person offering the subsidy shall enter into an operating agreement with the Corporation or any responsible person (including a government entity) under which the Corporation or such person (including a government entity) will operate rail service over such rail properties and receive the difference between the revenue attributable to such properties and the avoidable costs of providing service on such rail properties and the trustee of any railroad in reorganization shall receive a reasonable rate of return on the value of any rail properties for which a rail service is operated under such subsidy.

(d) PURCHASE.—If an offer to purchase is made under subsection (c)(2)(C) of this section, such offer shall be accompanied by an offer of a rail service continuation subsidy. Such subsidy shall continue until the purchase transaction is completed, unless a railroad assumes operations over such rail properties on its own account pursuant to an order or authorization of the Commission. Whenever a railroad in reorganization in the region or a profitable railroad gives notice of intent to discontinue service pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, such railroad shall, upon the request of anyone apparently qualified to make a purchase offer promptly make available its most recent reports on the physical condition of such property together with such traffic and revenue data as would be required under subpart B of part 1121 of chapter X of title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations and such other data

necessary to ascertain the avoidable costs of providing service over such rail properties.

(e) ABANDONMENT BY CORPORATION.—After the rail system to be operated by the Corporation under the final system plan has been in operation for 2 years, the Commission may authorize the Corporation to abandon any rail properties as to which it determines that rail service over such properties is not required by the public convenience and necessity. The Commission may, at any time after the effective date of the final system plan, authorize additional rail service in the region or authorize the abandonment of rail properties which are not being operated by the Corporation or by any other person. Determinations by the Commission under this subsection shall be made pursuant to applicable provisions of the Interstate Commerce Act (49 U.S.C. 1).

(f) INTERIM ABANDONMENT.—After the date of enactment of this Act, no railroad in reorganization may discontinue service or abandon any line of railroad other than in accordance with the provisions of this Act, unless it is authorized to do so by the Association and unless no affected State or local or regional transportation authority reasonably opposes such action, notwithstanding any provision of any other Federal law, the constitution or law of any State, or decision or order of, or the pendency of any proceeding before any Federal or State court, agency, or authority.

TITLE IV—LOCAL RAIL SERVICES

FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SEC. 401. (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) The Nation is facing an energy shortage of acute proportions in the next decade.

(2) Railroads are one of the most energy-efficient modes of transportation for the movement of passengers and freight and cause the least amount of pollution.

(3) Abandonment, termination, or substantial reduction of rail service in any locality will adversely affect the Nation's long-term and immediate goals with respect to energy conservation and environmental protection.

(4) Under certain circumstances the cost to the taxpayers of rail service continuation subsidies would be less than the cost of abandonment of rail service in terms of lost jobs, energy shortages, and degradation of the environment.

(b) PURPOSE.—Therefore, it is declared to be the purpose of the Congress to authorize the Secretary to maintain a program of rail service continuation subsidies.

RAIL SERVICE CONTINUATION SUBSIDIES

SEC. 402. (a) GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide financial assistance in accordance with this section for the purpose of rail service continuation subsidies. For purposes of subsection (b)(1) of this section the Federal share of a rail service continuation subsidy shall be 70 per centum and the State share shall be 30 per centum. For purposes of subsection (b)(2) of this section a State receiving discretionary assistance shall be required to contribute at least 30 per centum of the cost of the program for which the Federal assistance is provided.

(b) ENTITLEMENT.—(1) Each State in the region is entitled to an amount for rail service continuation subsidies from 50 per centum of the sums appropriated each fiscal year for such purpose in the ratio which the total rail mileage in such State, as determined by the Secretary and measured in point-to-point length (excluding yard tracks and sidings), bears to the total rail mileage in all the States in the region, measured in the same manner, except that the entitlement of each State shall be no

less than 3 per centum, and the entitlement of no State shall be more than 10 per centum, of 50 per centum of the funds appropriated. In the event that the total amount allocated under this formula, due to the application of the maximum and minimum limitations which it establishes, is greater or less than 50 per centum of the funds appropriated, the excess or deficiency, as the case may be, shall be added to or deducted from the Secretary's discretionary fund provided for in paragraph (2) of this subsection. The entitlement of any State which is withheld in accordance with this section and any sums not used or committed by a State during the preceding fiscal year shall be paid into the discretionary fund provided for in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) The Secretary is authorized to provide discretionary financial assistance to a State or a local or regional transportation authority in the region for the purpose of continuing local rail services, including assistance for the purposes enumerated in section 403 of this title.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.—A State in the region is eligible to receive rail service continuation subsidies pursuant to subsection (b) of this section in any fiscal year if—

(1) the State has established a State plan for rail transportation and local rail services which is administered or coordinated by a designated State agency and such plan provides for the equitable distribution of such subsidies among State, local, and regional transportation authorities;

(2) the State agency has authority and administrative jurisdiction to develop, promote, supervise, and support safe, adequate, and efficient rail services; employs or will employ, directly or indirectly, sufficient trained and qualified personnel; and maintains or will maintain adequate programs of investigation, research, promotion, and development with provision for public participation;

(3) the State provides satisfactory assurance that such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures will be adopted as may be necessary to assure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid under this title to the State; and

(4) the State complies with the regulations of the Secretary issued under this section.

(d) REGULATIONS.—Within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue, and may from time to time amend, regulations with respect to basic and discretionary rail service continuation subsidies.

(e) PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall pay to each State in the region an amount equal to its entitlement under subsection (b)(1) of this section. Any amounts which are not expended or committed by a State pursuant to subsection (b) during the ensuing fiscal year shall be returned by such State to the Secretary, who may use such amounts in accordance with subsection (b)(2) of this section.

(f) TERM.—A rail service continuation subsidy between a State, or a local or regional authority, and the Corporation or other responsible person (including a government entity) may not exceed a term of 2 years.

(g) RECORD, AUDIT, AND EXAMINATION.—(1) Each recipient of financial assistance under this section, whether in the form of grants, subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or other arrangements, shall keep such records as the Secretary shall prescribe, including records which fully disclose the amount and disposition by such recipient of the proceeds of such assistance, the total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which such assistance was given or used, the amount of that portion of the cost of the project supplied by other sources, and such other records as will facilitate an effective audit.

(2) The Secretary and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives shall, until the expiration of 3 years after completion of the project or undertaking referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection, have access for the purpose of audit and examination to any books, documents, papers, and records of such receipts which in the opinion of the Secretary or the Comptroller General may be related or pertinent to the grants, contracts, or other arrangements referred to in such paragraph.

(h) WITHHOLDING.—If the Secretary, after reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing to any State agency, finds that a State is not eligible for rail service continuation subsidies under subsections (c) and (d) of this section, payment to such State shall not be made until there is no longer any failure to comply.

(i) AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—(1) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the purposes of this section such sums as are necessary, not to exceed $90,000,000 for each of the 2 fiscal years including and following the effective date of the final system plan. Such sums as are appropriated shall remain available until expended.

(2) One-half of the sums appropriated pursuant to the authorization of this subsection shall be reserved for allocation to States in the region under subsection (b)(1) of this section. One-half of the sums appropriated pursuant to the authorization of this subsection shall be reserved for distribution by the Secretary under subsection (b)(2) of this section.

(j) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, "rail service continuation subsidies" means subsidies calculated in accordance with the provisions of section 205(d)(3) of this Act to cover costs of operating adequate and efficient rail service, including where necessary improvement and maintenance of tracks and related facilities.

ACQUISITION AND MODERNIZATION LOANS

SEC. 403. (a) ACQUISITION.—If a State which is eligible for assistance under section 402(c) of this title or a local or regional transportation authority has made an offer to purchase any rail properties of a railroad pursuant to section 304(c)(2)(C) of this Act or other lawful authority, the Secretary is authorized to direct the Association to provide loans to such State or local or regional transportation authority not to exceed 70 per centum of the purchase price: *Provided, however,* That any recipient of such loan is no longer eligible for a rail service continuation subsidy pursuant to section 402 of this title.

(b) MODERNIZATION.—In addition to such acquisition loans, the Secretary is authorized to direct the Association to provide additional assistance not to exceed 70 per centum of the cost of restoring or repairing such rail properties to such condition as will enable safe and efficient rail transportation operations over such rail properties. Such financial assistance may be in the form of a loan or the guarantee of a loan. The Association shall provide such financial assistance as the Secretary may direct under this section and shall adopt regulations describing its procedures for such assistance. With the approval of the Secretary, a State may expend sums received by it under section 402 of this title for acquisition and modernization pursuant to this section.

TITLE V—EMPLOYEE PROTECTION

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 501. As used in this title unless the context otherwise requires—

(1) "acquiring railroad" means a railroad, except the Corporation, which seeks to acquire or has acquired, pursuant to the provisions of this Act, all or a part of the rail

properties of one or more of the railroads in reorganization, the Corporation, or a profitable railroad;

(2) "employee of a railroad in reorganization" means a person who, on the effective date of a conveyance of rail properties of a railroad in reorganization to the Corporation or to an acquiring railroad, has an employment relationship with either said railroad in reorganization or any carrier (as defined in parts I and II of the Interstate Commerce Act) which is leased, controlled, or operated by the railroad in reorganization except a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, comptroller, and any other person who performs functions corresponding to those performed by the foregoing officers;

(3) "protected employee" means any employee of an acquiring railroad adversely affected by a transaction and any employee of a railroad in reorganization who on the effective date of this Act have not reached age 65;

(4) "class or craft of employees" means a group of employees, recognized and treated as a unit for purposes of collective bargaining, which is represented by a labor organization that has been duly authorized or recognized pursuant to the Railway Labor Act as its representative for purposes of collective bargaining;

(5) "representative of a class or craft of employees" means a labor organization which has been duly authorized or recognized as the collective bargaining representative of a class or craft of employees pursuant to the Railway Labor Act;

(6) "deprived of employment" means the inability of a protected employee to obtain a position by the normal exercise of his seniority rights with the Corporation after properly electing to accept employment therewith or, the subsequent loss of a position and inability, by the normal exercise of his seniority rights under the applicable collective bargaining agreements, to obtain another position with the

Corporation: *Provided, however,* That provisions in existing collective bargaining agreements of a railroad in reorganization, which do not require a protected employee, in the normal exercise of seniority rights, to make a change in residence, in order to maintain his protection, will be preserved and will also be extended and be applicable to all other protected employees of that same craft or class. It shall not, however, include any deprivation of employment by reason of death, retirement, resignation, dismissal or disciplinary suspension for cause, failure to work due to illness or disability, nor any severance of employment covered by subsections (d) and (e) of section 505 of this title;

(7) "employee adversely affected with respect to his compensation" means a protected employee who suffers a reduction in compensation;

(8) "transaction" means actions taken pursuant to the provisions of this Act or the results thereof; and

(9) "change in residence" means transfer to a work location which is located either (A) outside a radius of 30 miles of the employee's former work location and farther from his residence than was his former work location or (B) is located more than 30 normal highway route miles from his residence and also farther from his residence than was his former work location.

EMPLOYMENT OFFERS

SEC. 502. (a) APPLICABLE LAW.—The Corporation and, where applicable, the Association shall be subject to the provisions of the Railway Labor Act and shall be considered employers for purposes of the Railroad Retirement Act, Railroad Retirement Tax Act, and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. The Corporation, in addition, shall, except as otherwise specifically provided by this Act,

be subject to all Federal and State laws and regulations applicable to carriers by railroad.

(b) MANDATORY OFFER.—The Corporation shall offer employment, to be effective as of the date of a conveyance or discontinuance of service under the provisions of this Act, to each employee of a railroad in reorganization who has not already accepted an offer of employment by the Association, where applicable, or an acquiring railroad. Such offers of employment to employees represented by labor organizations will be confined to their same craft or class. The Corporation shall apply to said employees the protective provisions of this title.

(c) ASSOCIATION.—After the transfer of rail properties pursuant to section 303, the Association, in employing any additional employees, shall give priority consideration to employees of a railroad in reorganization and the provisions of this title shall apply to any such employees employed by the Association as if they were employees of the Corporation.

ASSIGNMENT OF WORK

SEC. 503. The Corporation shall have the right to assign, allocate, reassign, reallocate, and consolidate work formerly performed on the rail properties acquired pursuant to the provisions of this Act from a railroad in reorganization to any location, facility, or position on its system provided it does not remove said work from coverage of a collective-bargaining agreement and does not infringe upon the existing classification of work rights of any craft or class of employees at the location or facility to which said work is assigned, allocated, reassigned, reallocated, or consolidated and shall have the right to transfer to an acquiring railroad the work incident to the rail properties or facilities acquired by said acquiring railroad pursuant to this Act, subject, however, to the provisions of section 508 of this title.

COLLECTIVE-BARGAINING AGREEMENTS

SEC. 504. (a) INTERIM APPLICATION.—Until completion of the agreements provided for under subsection (d) of this section, the Corporation shall, as though an original party thereto, assume and apply on the particular lines, properties, or facilities acquired all obligations under existing collective-bargaining agreements covering all crafts and classes employed thereon, except that the Agreement of May 1936, Washington, D.C. and provisions in other existing job stabilization agreements shall not be applicable to transactions effected pursuant to this Act with respect to which the provisions of section 505 of this title shall be superseding and controlling. During this period, employees of a railroad in reorganization who have seniority on the lines, properties, or facilities acquired by the Corporation pursuant to this Act shall have prior seniority roster rights on such acquired lines, properties, or facilities.

(b) SINGLE IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT.—On or before the date of the adoption of the final system plan by the Board of Directors of the Association as provided in section 207(c) of this Act, the representatives of the various classes or crafts of the employees of a railroad in reorganization involved in a conveyance pursuant to this Act and representatives of the Corporation shall commence negotiation of a single implementing agreement for each class and craft of employees affected providing (1) the identification of the specific employees of the railroad in reorganization to whom the Corporation offers employment; (2) the procedure by which those employees of the railroad in reorganization may elect to accept employment with the Corporation; (3) the procedure for acceptance of such employees into the Corporation's employment and their assignment to positions on the Corporation's system; (4) the procedure for determining the seniority of such employees in their respective crafts or classes on the Corporation's system which shall, to the extent possible, preserve their prior seniority rights; and (5) the procedure for determining

equitable adjustment in rates of comparable positions. If no agreement with respect to the matters referred to in this subsection is reached by the end of 30 days after the commencement of negotiations, the parties shall within an additional 10 days select a neutral referee and, in the event they are unable to agree upon the selection of such referee, then the National Mediation Board shall immediately appoint a referee. After a referee has been designated, a hearing on the dispute shall commence as soon as practicable. Not less than 10 days prior to the effective date of any conveyance pursuant to the provisions of this Act, the referee shall resolve and decide all matters in dispute with respect to the negotiation of said implementing agreement or agreements and shall render a decision which shall be final and binding and shall constitute the implementing agreement or agreements between the parties with respect to the transaction involved. The salary and expenses of the referee shall be paid pursuant to the provisions of the Railway Labor Act.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROVISIONS.—Notwithstanding failure for any reason to complete implementing agreements provided for in subsection (b) of this section, the Corporation may proceed with a conveyance of properties, facilities, and equipment pursuant to the provisions of this Act and effectuate said transaction: *Provided*, That all protected employees shall be entitled to all of the provisions of such agreements, as finally determined, from the time they are adversely affected as a result of any such conveyance.

(d) NEW COLLECTIVE-BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 60 days after the effective date of any conveyance pursuant to the provisions of this Act, the representatives of the various classes or crafts of the employees of a railroad in reorganization involved in a conveyance and representatives of the Corporation shall commence negotiations of new collective-bargaining agreements for each class and craft of employees covering the rates of pay, rules, and working conditions of

employees who are employees of the Corporation, which collective-bargaining agreements shall include appropriate provisions concerning rates of pay, rules, and working conditions but shall not include any provisions for job stabilization resulting from any transaction effected pursuant to this Act which may exceed or conflict with those established or prescribed herein.

EMPLOYEE PROTECTION

SEC. 505. (a) EQUIVALENT POSITION.—A protected employee whose employment is governed by a collective-bargaining agreement will not, except as explicitly provided in this title, during the period in which he is entitled to protection, be placed in a worse position with respect to compensation, fringe benefits, rules, working conditions, and rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

(b) MONTHLY DISPLACEMENT ALLOWANCE.—A protected employee, who has been deprived of employment or adversely affected with respect to his compensation shall be entitled to a monthly displacement allowance computed as follows:

(1) Said allowance shall be determined by computing the total compensation received by the employee, including vacation allowances and monthly compensation guarantees, and his total time paid for during the last 12 months immediately prior to his being adversely affected in which he performed compensated service more than 50 per centum of each of such months, based upon his normal work schedule, and by dividing separately the total compensation and the total time paid for by 12, thereby producing the average monthly compensation and average monthly time paid for; and, if an employee's compensation in his current position is less in any month in which he performs work than the aforesaid average compensation, he shall be paid the difference, less any time lost on account of voluntary absences other than vacations, but said protected employee shall be compensated in addition thereto at the rate of

the position filled for any time worked in excess of his average monthly time, *Provided, however,* That—

(A) in determining compensation in his current employment the protected employee shall be treated as occupying the position, producing the highest rate of pay to which his qualifications and seniority entitle him under the applicable collective bargaining agreement and which does not require a change in residence;

(B) the said monthly displacement allowance shall be reduced by the full amount of any unemployment compensation benefits received by the protected employee and shall be reduced by an amount equivalent to any earnings of said protected employee in any employment subject to the Railroad Retirement Act and 50 per centum of any earnings in any employment not subject to the Railroad Retirement Act;

(C) a protected employee's average monthly compensation shall be adjusted from time to time thereafter to reflect subsequent general wage increases;

(D) should a protected employee's service total less than 12 months in which he performs more than 50 per centum compensated service based upon his normal work schedule in each of said months, his average monthly compensation shall be determined by dividing separately the total compensation received by the employee and the total time for which he was paid by the number of months in which he performed more than 50 per centum compensated service based upon his normal work schedule; and

(E) the monthly displacement allowance provided by this section shall in no event exceed the sum of $2,500 in any month except that such amount shall be adjusted to reflect subsequent general wage increases.

(2) A protected employee's average monthly compensation under this section shall be based upon the rate of pay applicable to his employment and shall include increases in rates of pay not in fact paid but which were provided for in national railroad labor agreements generally applicable during the period involved.

(3) If a protected employee who is entitled to a monthly displacement allowance served as an agent or a representative of a class or craft of employees on either a full- or part-time basis in the 12 months immediately preceding his being adversely affected, his monthly displacement allowance shall be computed by taking the average of the average monthly compensation and average monthly time paid for of the protected employees immediately above and below him on the same seniority roster or his own monthly displacement allowance, whichever is greater.

(4) An employee and his representative shall be furnished with a protected employee's average monthly compensation and average monthly time paid for, computed in accordance with the terms of this subsection, together with the data upon which such computations are based, within 30 days after the protected employee notifies the Corporation in writing that he has been deprived of employment or adversely affected with respect to his compensation.

(c) DURATION OF DISPLACEMENT ALLOWANCE.—The monthly displacement allowance provided for in subsection (b) of this section shall continue until the attainment of age 65 by a protected employee with 5 or more years of service on the effective date of this Act and, in the case of a protected employee who has less than 5 years service on such date, shall continue for a period equal to his total prior years of service: *Provided*, That such monthly displacement allowance shall terminate upon the protected employee's death, retirement, resignation, or dismissal for cause; and shall be suspended for the period of disciplinary suspension for cause, failure to work due to illness or disability, voluntary furlough, or failure to retain or obtain a position

available to him by the exercise of his seniority rights in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(d) TRANSFER.—(1) A protected employee who has been deprived of employment may be required by the Corporation, in inverse seniority order and upon reasonable notice, to transfer to any bona fide vacancy for which he is qualified in his same class or craft of employee on any part of the Corporation's system and shall then be governed by the collective-bargaining agreement applicable on the seniority district to which transferred. If such transfer requires a change in residence, any such protected employee may choose (A) to voluntarily furlough himself at his home location and have his monthly displacement allowance suspended during the period of voluntary furlough, or (B) to be severed from employment upon payment to him of a separation allowance computed as provided in subsections (e) and (f) of this section, which separation allowance shall be in lieu of all other benefits provided by this title.

(2) Such protected employee shall not be required to transfer to a location requiring a change in residence unless there is a bona fide need for his services at such location. Such bona fide need for services contemplates that the transfer be to a position which has not and cannot be filled by employees who are not required to make a change in residence in the seniority district involved and which, in the absence of this section, would have required the employment of a new employee.

(3) Such protected employee who, at the request of the Corporation, has once accepted and made a transfer to a location requiring a change in residence shall not be required again to so transfer for a period of 3 years.

(4) Transfers to vacancies requiring a change in residence shall be subject to the following:

(A) The vacancy shall be first offered to the junior qualified protected employee deprived of employment in the seniority district where the vacancy exists, and each such employee shall have 20 days to elect one of the options set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection. If that employee elects not to accept the transfer, it will then be offered in inverse seniority order to the remaining qualified, protected employees deprived of employment on the seniority district, who will each have 20 days to elect one of the options set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(B) If the vacancy is not filled by the procedure in paragraph (4)(A) of this subsection, the vacancy will then be offered in the inverse order of seniority to the qualified protected employees deprived of employment on the system and each of such employees will be afforded 30 days to elect one of the options set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(C) The provisions of this paragraph shall not prevent the adoption of other procedures pursuant to an agreement made by the Corporation and representative of the class or craft of employees involved.

(e) SEPARATION ALLOWANCE.—A protected employee who is tendered and accepts an offer by the Corporation to resign and sever his employment relationship in consideration of payment to him of a separation allowance, and any protected employee whose employment relationship is severed in accordance with subsection (d) of this section, shall be entitled to receive a lump-sum separation allowance not to exceed $20,000 in lieu of all other benefits provided by this title. Said lump-sum separation allowance, in the case of a protected employee who had not less than 3 nor more than 5 years of service as of the date of this Act, shall amount to 270 days' pay at the rate of the position last held and, in the case of a protected employee having had 5 or more years' service, shall amount to the number of days' pay indicated below

at the rate of the position last held dependent upon the age of the protected employee at the time of such termination of employment:

60 or under	360 days' pay
61	300 days' pay
62	240 days' pay
63	180 days' pay
64	120 days' pay.

(f) TERMINATION ALLOWANCE.—The Corporation may terminate the employment of an employee of a railroad in reorganization, who has less than 3 years' service as of the effective date of this Act: *Provided, however,* That in such event the terminated employee shall be entitled to receive a lump sum separation allowance in an amount determined as follows:

2 to 3 years' service	180 days' pay at the rate of the position last held.
1 to 2 years' service	90 days' pay at the rate of the position last held.
Less than 1 year's service	5 days' pay at the rate of the position last held for each month of service.

(g) MOVING EXPENSE BENEFITS.—Any protected employee who is required to make a change of residence as the result of a transaction shall be entitled to the following benefits—

(1) Reimbursement for all expenses of moving his household and other personal effects, for the traveling expense of himself and members of his family, including living expenses for himself and his family, and for his own actual wage loss, not to exceed 10 working days. *Provided*, That the Corporation or acquiring railroad shall, to the same extent provided above, assume said expenses for any employee furloughed within 3 years after changing his point of employment as a result of a transaction, who elects to move his place of residence back to his original point of employment. No claim for reimbursement shall be paid under the provisions of this section unless such

claim is presented to the Corporation or acquiring railroad within 90 days after the date on which the expenses were incurred.

(2)(A)(i) If the protected employee owns, or is under a contract to purchase, his own home in the locality from which he is required to move and elects to sell said home, he shall be reimbursed for any loss suffered in the sale of his home for less than its fair market value. In each case the fair market value of the home in question shall be determined as of a date sufficiently prior to the date of the transaction so as to be unaffected thereby. The Corporation or an acquiring railroad shall in each instance be afforded an opportunity to purchase the home at such fair market value before it is sold by the employee to any other person.

(ii) A protected employee may elect to waive the provisions of paragraph (2)(A)(i) of this subsection and to receive, in lieu thereof, an amount equal to his closing costs which are ordinarily paid for and assumed by a seller of real estate in the jurisdiction in which the residence is located. Such costs shall include a real estate commission paid to a licensed realtor (not to exceed $3,000 or 6 per centum of sale price, whichever is less), and any prepayment penalty required by the institution holding the mortgage; such costs shall not include the payment of any "points" by the seller.

(B) If the protected employee holds an unexpired lease on a dwelling occupied by him as his home, he shall be protected from all loss and cost in securing the cancellation of said lease.

(C) No claim for costs or loss shall be paid under the provisions of this paragraph unless the claim is presented to the Corporation or an acquiring railroad within 90 days after such costs or loss are incurred.

(D) Should a controversy arise with respect to the value of the home, the costs or loss sustained in its sale, the costs or loss under a contract for purchase, loss or cost in

securing termination of a lease, or any other question in connection with these matters, it shall be decided through joint conference between the employee, or his representative, and the Corporation or an acquiring railroad. In the event they are unable to agree, the dispute or controversy may be referred by either party to a board of competent real estate appraisers, selected in the following manner: One to be selected by the employee or his representative and one by the Corporation or acquiring railroad and these two, if unable to agree upon a valuation within 30 days, shall endeavor by agreement within 10 days thereafter to select a third appraiser, or to agree to a method by which a third appraiser shall be selected, and, failing such agreement, either party may request the National Mediation Board to designate within 10 days a third qualified real estate appraiser whose designation will be binding upon the parties. A decision of a majority of the appraisers shall be required and said decision shall be final and conclusive. The salary and expenses of the third or neutral appraiser, including the expenses of the appraisal board, shall be borne equally by the parties to the proceedings. All other expenses shall be paid by the party incurring them, including the compensation of the appraiser selected by such party.

(h) APPLICATION OF TITLE.—Should a railroad rearrange or adjust its forces in anticipation of a transaction with the purpose or effect of depriving a protected employee of benefits to which he otherwise would have become entitled under this title, the provisions of this title will apply to such employee.

CONTRACTING OUT

SEC. 506. All work in connection with the operation or services provided by the Corporation on the rail lines, properties, equipment, or facilities acquired pursuant to the provisions of this Act and the maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, or modernization of such lines, properties, equipment, or facilities which has been performed by practice or agreement in accordance with provisions of the existing

contracts in effect with the representatives of the employees of the classes or crafts involved shall continue to be performed by said Corporation's employees, including employees on furlough. Should the Corporation lack a sufficient number of employees, including employees on furlough, and be unable to hire additional employees, to perform the work required, it shall be permitted to subcontract that part of such work which cannot be performed by its employees, including those on furlough, except where agreement by the representatives of the employees of the classes or crafts involved is required by applicable collective-bargaining agreements. The term "unable to hire additional employees" as used in this section contemplates establishment and maintenance by the Corporation of an apprenticeship, training, or recruitment program to provide an adequate number of skilled employees to perform the work.

ARBITRATION

SEC. 507. Any dispute or controversy with respect to the interpretation, application, or enforcement of the provisions of this title, except section 504(d) and those disputes or controversies provided for in subsection (g)(2)(D) of section 505 and subsection (b) of section 504 which have not been resolved within 90 days, may be submitted by either party to an Adjustment Board for a final and binding decision thereon as provided in section 3 Second, of the Railway Labor Act, in which event the burden of proof on all issues so presented shall be upon the Corporation or, where applicable, the Association.

ACQUIRING RAILROADS

SEC. 508. An acquiring railroad shall offer such employment and afford such employment protection to employees of a railroad from which it acquires properties or facilities pursuant to this Act, and shall further protect its own employees who are

adversely affected by such acquisition, as shall be agreed upon between the said acquiring railroad and the representatives of such employees prior to said acquisition: *Provided, however,* That the protection and benefits provided for protected employees in such agreements shall be the same as those specified in section 505 of this title: *And provided further, however,* That unless and until such agreements are reached, the acquiring railroad shall not enter into purchase agreements pursuant to section 303 of this Act.

PAYMENTS OF BENEFITS

SEC. 509. The Corporation, the Association (where applicable), and acquiring railroads, as the case may be, shall be responsible for the actual payment of all allowances, expenses, and costs provided protected employees pursuant to the provisions of this title. The Corporation, the Association (where applicable), and acquiring railroads shall then be reimbursed for such actual amounts paid protected employees, not to exceed the aggregate sum of $250,000,000, pursuant to the provisions of this title by the Railroad Retirement Board upon certification to said Board by the Corporation, the Association (where applicable), and acquiring railroads of the amounts paid such employees. Such reimbursement shall be made from a separate account maintained in the Treasury of the United States to be know as the Regional Rail Transportation Protective Account. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to such protective account annually such sums as may be required to meet the obligations payable hereunder, not to exceed in the aggregate, however, the sum of $250,000,000. There is further authorized to be appropriated to the Railroad Retirement Board annually such sums as may be necessary to provide for additional administrative expenses to be incurred by the Board in the performance of its functions under this section.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS

SEC. 601. (a) ANTITRUST.—(1) Except as specifically provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, no provision of this Act shall be deemed to convey to any railroad or employee or director thereof any immunity from civil or criminal liability, or to create defenses to actions, under the antitrust laws.

(2) The antitrust laws are inapplicable with respect to any action taken to formulate or implement the final system plan where such action was in compliance with the requirements of such plan.

(3) As used in this subsection, "antitrust laws" includes the Act of July 2, 1890 (ch. 647, 26 Stat. 209), as amended; the Act of October 15, 1914 (ch. 323, 38 Stat. 730), as amended; the Federal Trade Commission Act (38 Stat. 717), as amended; sections 73 and 74 of the Act of August 27, 1894 (28 Stat. 570), as amended; the Act of June 19, 1936 (ch. 592, 49 Stat. 1526), as amended; and the antitrust laws of any State or subdivision thereof.

(b) COMMERCE AND BANKRUPTCY.—The provisions of the Interstate Commerce Act (49 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) and the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. et seq.) are inapplicable to transactions under this Act to the extent necessary to formulate and implement the final system plan whenever a provision of any such Act is inconsistent with this Act.

(c) ENVIRONMENT.—(1) The provisions of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) shall not apply with respect to any action taken under authority of this Act before the effective date of the final system plan.

(d) NORTHEAST CORRIDOR.—(1) Rail properties designated in accordance with section 206(c)(1)(C) of this Act shall be leased or may (at its option) be purchased or

otherwise acquired by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation. The Corporation shall negotiate an appropriate sale or lease agreement with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation as provided in the final system plan.

(2) Properties acquired by purchase, lease, or otherwise pursuant to this subsection shall be improved in order to meet the goal set forth in section 206(a)(3) of this Act, relating to improved high-speed passenger service, by the earliest practicable date after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) The Secretary shall begin the necessary engineering studies and improvements upon enactment.

(4) The final system plan shall provide for any necessary coordination with freight or commuter services of use of the facilities designated in section 206(c)(1)(C) of this Act. Such coordination may be effectuated through a single operating entity, designated in the final system plan, or as mutually agreed upon by the interested parties.

(5) Construction or improvements made pursuant to this subsection may be made in consultation with the Corps of Engineers.

(e) EMERGENCY SERVICE.—Section 1(16) of the Interstate Commerce Act (49 U.S.C. 1(16)) is amended by inserting "(a)" before the word "Whenever" in the first sentence and adding the following new paragraph:

"(b) Whenever any carrier by railroad is unable to transport the traffic offered it because—

"(1) its cash position makes its continuing operation impossible;

"(2) it has been ordered to discontinue any service by a court; or

"(3) it has abandoned service without obtaining a certificate from the Commission pursuant to this section;

the Commission may, upon the same procedure as provided in paragraph (15) of this section, make such just and reasonable directions with respect to the handling, routing, and movement of the traffic available to such carrier and its distribution over such carrier's lines, as in the opinion of the Commission will best promote the service in the interest of the public and the commerce of the people subject to the following conditions:

"(A) Such direction shall be effective for no longer than 60 days unless extended by the Commission for cause shown for an additional designated period not to exceed 180 days.

"(B) No such directions shall be issued that would cause a carrier to operate in violation of the Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970 (45 U.S.C. 421) or that would substantially impair the ability of the carrier so directed to serve adequately its own patrons or to meet its outstanding common carrier obligations.

"(C) The directed carrier shall not, by reason of such Commission direction, be deemed to have assumed or to become responsible for the debts of the other carrier.

"(D) The directed carrier shall hire employees of the other carrier to the extent such employees had previously performed the directed service for the other carrier, and, as to such employees as shall be so hired, the directed carrier shall be deemed to have assumed all existing employment obligations and practices of the other carrier relating thereto, including, but not limited to, agreements governing rate of pay, rules and working conditions, and all employee protective conditions commencing with and for the duration of the direction.

"(E) Any order of the Commission entered pursuant to this paragraph shall provide that if, for the period of its effectiveness, the cost, as hereinafter defined, of handling, routing, and moving the traffic of another carrier over the other carrier's lines of road shall exceed the direct revenues therefor, then upon request, payment shall be made to the directed carrier, in the manner hereinafter provided and within 90 days after expiration of such order, of a sum equal to the amount by which such cost has exceeded said revenues. The term 'cost' shall mean those expenditures made or incurred in or attributable to the operations as directed, including the rental or lease of necessary equipment, plus an appropriate allocation of common expenses, overheads, and a reasonable profit. Such cost shall be then currently recorded by the carrier or carriers in such manner and on such forms as by general order may be prescribed by the Commission and shall be submitted to and subject to audit by the Commission. The Commission shall certify promptly to the Secretary of the Treasury the amount of payment to be made to said carrier or carriers under the provisions of this paragraph. Payments required to be made to a carrier under the provisions of this paragraph shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury from funds hereby authorized to be appropriated in such amounts as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions hereof.".

ANNUAL EVALUATION BY THE SECRETARY

SEC. 602. As part of his annual report each year, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress each year a comprehensive report on the effectiveness of the Association and the Corporation in implementing the purposes of this Act, together with any recommendations for additional legislative or other action.

FREIGHT RATES FOR RECYCLABLES

SEC. 603. The Commission shall, by expedited proceedings, adopt appropriate rules under the Interstate Commerce Act (49 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) which will eliminate discrimination against the shipment of recyclable materials in rate structures and in other Commission practices where such discrimination exists.

SEPARABILITY

SEC. 604. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of this Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

APPROVED January 2, 1974.