Public Law 97-468
97th Congress

An Act

Making technical corrections to the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 and the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979, and for other purposes.

Jan. 14, 1983
[H.R. 3420]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That titles II through VII of this Act may be cited as the "Rail Safety and Service Improvement Act of 1982".

Rail Safety and Service Improvement Act of 1982.
45 USC 421 note.

TITLE I—NATURAL GAS PIPELINE SAFETY

SEC. 101. Section 4(b) of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 U.S.C. 1673(b)) and section 204(b) of the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979 (49 U.S.C. 2003(b)) are each amended by striking "once every 6 months." and substituting "twice each calendar year.".

SEC. 102. Section 8(a) of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 U.S.C. 1675(a)) is amended by striking "sixtieth day" and substituting "90th day".

SEC. 103. Section 206(a) of the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979 (49 U.S.C. 2005(a)) is amended by striking "60th day" and substituting "90th day".

SEC. 104. Section 5(a) of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 U.S.C. 1674(a)) is amended by striking "(other than subsection (a)(3) thereof)" and substituting "(other than subsection (a)(2) thereof)".

TITLE II—BANKRUPT RAILROADS

Bankrupt Railroad Service Preservation and Employee Protection Act of 1982.
45 USC 901 note.

SHORT TITLE

SEC. 201. This title may be referred to as the "Bankrupt Railroad Service Preservation and Employee Protection Act of 1982".

Subtitle A—Service Preservation

PURPOSE

SEC. 211. It is the purpose of this subtitle to continue the effort by Congress to assure service over the lines of rail carriers subject to liquidation in instances where rail carriers are willing to provide service over such lines and financially responsible persons are willing to purchase the lines for continued rail operations.

45 USC 901 note.

FINDINGS

SEC. 212. The Congress finds that—

45 USC 901 note.

(1) it is necessary to establish procedures to facilitate and expedite the acquisition of rail lines of carriers subject to liquidation by financially responsible persons in instances where service is not being provided over the line by the carrier and

where the financially responsible person seeks to provide rail service over the line;

(2) procedures set forth in the amendments made by this title represent an exercise of the powers of the Congress under the Constitution to regulate commerce among the several States which will provide a practicable means for preserving rail service, thus benefiting shippers, employees, and the economies of the States in which such carriers subject to liquidation have operated service, and for facilitating interstate commerce, while at the same time providing safeguards to protect the interest of the estates of such carriers by requiring compensation which is not less than the constitutionally required minimum; and

(3) it is in the public interest that the Interstate Commerce Commission's authority to issue orders involving temporary authority to operate service over lines of carriers subject to liquidation be clarified.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MILWAUKEE RAILROAD RESTRUCTURING ACT

SEC. 213. Section 17(b) of the Milwaukee Railroad Restructuring Act (45 U.S.C. 915(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

"(3)(A) If a person has made or makes an offer to acquire from a carrier subject to liquidation a rail line or lines over which no service is provided by that carrier, and that offer has been or is rejected by the trustee in bankruptcy of such carrier, such person may submit an application to the Commission seeking approval of such person's acquisition of such line or lines. A copy of any such application shall be filed simultaneously with the court.

"(B) The Commission shall, within 15 days after the filing of an application under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, determine whether the applicant—

"(i) is a financially responsible person; and

"(ii) has made a bona fide offer to acquire the line or lines under reasonable terms.

"(C)(i) If the Commission's determination under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph is affirmative with respect to the matters referred to in clauses (i) and (ii) of such subparagraph, the applicant and the trustee in bankruptcy (hereafter in this paragraph referred to collectively as the 'parties') shall enter into negotiations with respect to terms for the acquisition of the line or lines applied for. If the parties at any time agree on such terms, a request for approval of the acquisition shall be filed with the Commission and the court. If the parties are unable to agree to such terms within 30 days after the date of the Commission's determination under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, either party may, within 60 days after the expiration of such 30-day period, request the Commission to prescribe terms for such acquisition, including compensation for the line or lines to be acquired. The Commission shall prescribe such terms within 60 days after any such request is made. The terms prescribed by the Commission shall be binding upon both parties, subject to court review as provided in subparagraph (D) of this paragraph, except that the applicant may withdraw its offer within 10 days after the Commission prescribes such terms.

"(ii) If more than one applicant has requested under this subparagraph that the Commission prescribe the terms of acquisition for the same or overlapping lines or portions of such lines, the Commission shall prescribe terms for such acquisition which it determines best serve the public interest.

"(D)(i) Within 15 days after the Commission prescribes terms under subparagraph (C) of this paragraph, the Commission shall transmit such terms to the court, unless the offer is withdrawn under such subparagraph. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court shall, within 60 days after such transmittal, approve the acquisition under terms prescribed by the Commission if the compensation for the line or lines is not less than that required as a constitutional minimum.

"(ii) Except as provided in this subparagraph, no action shall be taken by the court which would prejudice the acquisition which is the subject of an application under this paragraph.

"(E) The Commission shall require that any person acquiring a line or lines under this paragraph use, to the maximum extent practicable, employees or former employees of the carrier subject to liquidation in the operation of service on such line or lines.

"(F) No person acquiring a line under this paragraph may transfer or discontinue service on such line prior to the expiration of 4 years after such acquisition.

"(G) The Commission shall, within 45 days after the date of enactment of the Bankrupt Railroad Service Preservation and Employee Protection Act of 1982, prescribe such regulations and procedures as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this paragraph.

"(H) As used in this paragraph, the term— Definitions.

"(i) 'carrier subject to liquidation' means a carrier which, on the date of enactment of the Bankrupt Railroad Service Preservation and Employee Protection Act of 1982, was the subject of a proceeding pending under section 77 of the Bankruptcy Act or under subchapter IV of chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, and which has been ordered by the court to liquidate its properties; *Ante*, p. 2543. 11 USC 1161.

"(ii) 'the court' means the court having bankruptcy jurisdiction over the carrier subject to liquidation; and

"(iii) 'financially responsible person' means a person capable of compensating the carrier subject to liquidation for the acquisition of the line or lines proposed to be acquired and able to cover expenses associated with providing service over such line or lines for a period of not less than 4 years.".

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION AUTHORITY

SEC. 214. (a) Section 122(a) of the Rock Island Railroad Transition and Employee Assistance Act (45 U.S.C. 1017(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "the Rock Island Railroad or the Milwaukee Railroad" and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "a carrier which, on the date of enactment of the Bankrupt Railroad Service Preservation and Employee Protection Act of 1982, was the subject of a proceeding pending under section 77 of the Bankruptcy Act or under subchapter IV of chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code";

(2) by striking the last sentence of such section; and

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following: "The Commission shall have authority to authorize continued rail service under this section over the lines of any such carrier which has been ordered by the court having jurisdiction over such a carrier to liquidate its properties until the disposition of the properties of the estate of such carrier.".

(b) Section 122(c) of the Rock Island Railroad Transition and Employee Assistance Act (45 U.S.C. 1017(c)) is repealed.

Subtitle B—Employee Protection

EMPLOYEE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

SEC. 231. Section 106 of the Rock Island Railroad Transition and Employee Assistance Act (45 U.S.C. 1005) is amended to read as follows:

"EMPLOYEE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

"SEC. 106. (a) The Secretary and the representatives of the various classes and crafts of employees of the Rock Island Railroad shall, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Bankrupt Railroad Service Preservation and Employee Protection Act of 1982, enter into an agreement providing protection for employees of the Rock Island Railroad who are adversely affected as a result of a reduction in service by such Railroad. Such agreement may provide for the use of funds described in subsection (c) of this section for the following purposes:

Ante, p. 2543.

"(1) Subsistence allowances to employees.

"(2) Moving expenses for employees who must make a change in residence.

"(3) Retraining expenses for employees who are seeking employment in new areas.

"(4) Separation allowances for employees.

"(5) Health and welfare insurance premiums.

"(6) Such other purposes as may be agreed upon by the parties.

Schedule of benefits.

"(b) If the parties are unable to reach agreement within the time period specified in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall, within 30 days after the expiration of such time period, prescribe a schedule of benefits for employee protection not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

"(c) Any agreement entered into under subsection (a) of this section, and any benefit schedule prescribed under subsection (b) of this section, shall not require the expenditure of funds in excess of amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 217(f)(1)(C) of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973, nor shall any individual employee receive benefits in excess of $20,000 under such agreement or benefit schedule. No benefits or assistance may be provided under any agreement entered into or benefit schedule prescribed under this section after April 1, 1984.

Post, p. 2552.

"(d) The Board shall, in such manner as it shall prescribe by regulation, administer the distribution of funds under any agreement entered into or benefit schedule prescribed under this section, and shall determine the amount for which each employee is eligible under such agreement or benefit schedule. Such regulation shall include procedures to resolve by final and binding arbitration any dispute over an employee's eligibility or claim.".

ELECTION

SEC. 232. Section 108 of the Rock Island Railroad Transition and Employee Assistance Act (45 U.S.C. 1007) is amended—

(1) in subsections (a) and (d), by striking "or arrangement entered into" and inserting in lieu thereof "entered into or benefit schedule prescribed"; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "April 1, 1981" and inserting in lieu thereof "120 days after the effective date of any agreement entered into under section 106(a) of this title or of any benefit schedule prescribed under section 106(b) of this title, as the case may be".

NEW CAREER TRAINING ASSISTANCE

SEC. 233. Section 119(a) of the Rock Island Railroad Transition and Employee Assistance Act (45 U.S.C. 1014(a)) is amended by striking "from the Rock Island Railroad under an employee protection agreement or arrangement entered into under section 106 of this title may" and inserting in lieu thereof "under an employee protection agreement entered into or a benefit schedule prescribed under section 106 of this title may, if so provided under such agreement or benefit schedule,".

REPEALS

SEC. 234. (a) Section 110 of the Rock Island Railroad Transition and Employee Assistance Act (45 U.S.C. 1008) is repealed.

(b) The second sentence of section 14(b) of the Milwaukee Railroad Restructuring Act (45 U.S.C. 913(b)) is repealed.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

SEC. 235. (a) Section 704(f) of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 797(c)) is amended by striking "3-year" and inserting in lieu thereof "4-year". 45 USC 797c.

(b) Section 704(g) of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 797(g)) is amended by striking "this section or section 703 of this Act" wherever it appears and inserting in lieu thereof "this section, section 703 of this Act, section 8 of the Milwaukee Railroad Restructuring Act (45 U.S.C. 907), or section 105 of the Rock Island Railroad Transition and Employee Assistance Act (45 U.S.C. 1004)". 45 USC 797c.

RAILROAD HIRING

SEC. 236. (a) Section 8 of the Milwaukee Railroad Restructuring Act (45 U.S.C. 907) is amended by striking "April 1, 1981," and inserting in lieu thereof "April 1, 1984,".

(b) Section 105(a) of the Rock Island Railroad Transition and Employee Assistance Act (45 U.S.C. 1004(a)) is amended by striking "January 1, 1981," and inserting in lieu thereof "January 1, 1984,".

TITLE III—NORTHEAST CORRIDOR

AMENDMENTS

SEC. 301. Title VII of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 851 et seq.) is amended as follows:

[96 Stat. 2548–2580 omitted (33 pages)]

RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLIANCE

SEC. 706. Section 209(a) of the Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970 (45 U.S.C. 438(a)) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) It shall be unlawful for any railroad to fail to comply with any rule, regulation, order, or standard prescribed by the Secretary under this title.".

Approved January 14, 1983.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3420 (S. 1099):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 97-89, Pt. I (Comm. on Public Works and Transportation) and Pt. II (Comm. on Energy and Commerce).

SENATE REPORT No. 97-74 accompanying S. 1099 (Comm. on Commerce, Science, and Transportation).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 127 (1981): June 1, considered and passed House.
June 2, S. 1099 considered and passed Senate; proceedings vacated.
July 17, H.R. 3420 considered and passed Senate, amended.

Vol. 128 (1982): Dec. 20, House agreed to Senate amendments with amendments.
Dec. 21, Senate concurred in House amendments with amendments; House concurred in Senate amendments.