

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 414

BY TRANSPORTATION AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE RAIL AND INTERMODAL FACILITY SYSTEM PLAN; AMENDING
SECTION 49-2905, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE DUTIES OF THE TRANSPORTATION DE-
PARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REGARDING THE STATE RAIL AND
INTERMODAL FACILITY SYSTEM PLAN.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 49-2905, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
amended to read as follows:

49-2905. STATE RAIL AND INTERMODAL FACILITY SYSTEM PLAN. (1) The Idaho
transportation department shall prepare and periodically update a state
rail and intermodal facility system plan, a primary objective of which is to
identify, evaluate and encourage the development and preservation of essen-
tial rail and truck intermodal services. The plan shall:

- (a) Identify and describe the state's rail system;
- (b) Prepare state rail system maps;
- (c) Identify and evaluate mainline capacity issues in cooperation with
the railroads;
- (d) Identify and evaluate rail access and congestion issues;
- (e) Identify and evaluate rail commodity flows and traffic types;
- (f) Identify lines and corridors that have been rail banked or pre-
served;
- (g) Identify and evaluate other rail and intermodal issues affect-
ing the state's freight transportation system and regional and local
economies;
- (h) Identify and evaluate those rail freight lines that are potentially
subject to abandonment in the future because of unmet capital needs or
other reasons, or have recently been approved for abandonment but the
track improvements are still in place;
- (i) Whenever possible provide priorities for determining which rail
lines or intermodal commerce authorities should receive state support,
and provide to the interagency working group supporting information
used in establishing such priorities for use by the interagency working
group in advising the department of agriculture. The priorities should
include:
 - (i) The anticipated benefits to the state and local economy;
 - (ii) Coordinated freight transportation system including the an-
ticipated cost of road and highway improvements necessitated by
the proposed project;
 - (iii) Establishment of an intermodal facility, if indicated;
 - (iv) The likelihood the qualified line receiving funding can meet
operating costs from freight charges, surcharges on rail traffic
and other funds; and

1 (v) The impact of abandonment or capacity constraints if the
 2 project does not obtain state support; and

3 (j) Identify and describe the state's intermodal rural rail and truck
 4 freight system by:

5 (i) Preparing state intermodal and regional freight transfer
 6 station system maps;

7 (ii) Identifying and evaluating intermodal and truck and rail
 8 freight transfer capacity and coordination issues in cooperation
 9 with local government and the railroad and truck interests;

10 (iii) Identifying and evaluating intermodal and freight transfer
 11 access and highway capacity issues; and

12 (iv) Identifying and evaluating major freight commodity origins,
 13 destinations and traffic flows by mode and corridor.

14 (2) The Idaho transportation department shall provide information to
 15 the interagency working group for assisting and advising the department
 16 of agriculture to monitor the status of the state's mainline, short line
 17 and branch line common carrier railroads through the state rail planning
 18 process and various analyses. In addition, the Idaho transportation de-
 19 partment shall submit to the interagency working group, its evaluation of
 20 alternatives to abandonment prior to federal surface transportation board
 21 proceedings, where feasible.

22 (3) The state rail and intermodal facility system plan may be prepared
 23 in conjunction with any rail plan currently prepared by the Idaho trans-
 24 portation department pursuant to other federal rail assistance programs,
 25 or which may be enacted, including if applicable, the federal local rail
 26 freight assistance program.

27 (4) The Idaho transportation department shall determine the amount of
 28 moneys necessary to prepare and periodically update the state rail plan re-
 29 quired by subsection (1) of this section, and communicate that amount to the
 30 department of agriculture who shall annually provide to the transportation
 31 department moneys in an amount not to exceed one percent (1%) of the total as-
 32 sets in the fund established by section 49-2904, Idaho Code, to prepare and
 33 periodically update the state rail plan. The Idaho transportation depart-
 34 ment is hereby authorized to accumulate these funds not to exceed an aggre-
 35 gate amount of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for preparing and pe-
 36 riodically updating the state rail plan.