



Fact Sheet: Support SB 100 – Michigan’s Two-Person Train Crew Legislation

What is SB 100?

SB 100 is a proposed Michigan law requiring all freight trains in the state to operate with a minimum crew size of two individuals. This bill seeks to codify a long-standing industry practice to ensure rail safety for workers, communities, and the environment.

Why is SB 100 Important?

- **Safety First**
 - A two-person crew ensures quick and efficient responses to everyday issues, including mechanical failures, equipment malfunctions, and grade-crossing incidents.
 - In the event of derailments or grade-crossing accidents, having two crew members allows for immediate action, such as coordinating with emergency responders and addressing public safety concerns.
- **Proven Industry Norm**
 - Two-person crews are the overwhelming standard in the rail industry and have not negatively affected the financial or operational performance of rail carriers.
 - Railroads using the two-person crew model have consistently reported record-breaking revenues and profits over recent decades.
- **Precedent in Other States**
 - SB 100 is not breaking new ground. Eleven states, including nearby Ohio and Minnesota, already enforce some form of crew-size requirements for freight trains.
- **Protecting Communities**
 - Leaving crew size decisions to collective bargaining risks sacrificing essential safety measures, putting rail workers and local communities in harm's way. Safety isn't something to negotiate—it needs to be protected by law to ensure everyone stays safe, no matter what.
 - It is the fundamental duty of the legislature to safeguard the well-being of the people and uphold their will. By enacting laws that prioritize safety and reflect public interests, legislators fulfill their responsibility to protect communities and ensure a government that serves its citizens.



- **Widespread Public Support**

- Recent polling shows that 85% of Americans support legislation mandating two-person train crews. Support spans all political affiliations:
 - 82% of Republicans
 - 83% of Independents
 - 90% of Democrats
- During the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on train crew size, over 13,500 public comments were submitted. The overwhelming majority supported the implementation of a final rule requiring a minimum of two-person crews for freight and passenger trains. Only 64 comments opposed the rule. This strong public support highlights a widespread consensus on the importance of maintaining safety standards through adequate crew sizes.

Key Benefits of SB 100

- Strengthens public safety by reducing risks in accidents or derailments.
- Aligns Michigan with other states adopting modern, standardized rail safety measures.
- Protects workers, local communities, and emergency responders.
- Reinforces a long-standing industry practice without adding financial or operational burdens to rail carriers.

Conclusion

SB 100 is a commonsense, bipartisan solution to improve rail safety in Michigan. It codifies a practice that has served the rail industry and communities well for decades while ensuring that the safety of workers and residents is never compromised.

[Support SB 100 to keep Michigan's railways safe and secure](#)