

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2016 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-31-2016
Proposed by Council Member Harrison
Introduced by Council Members Harrison, Turner, Davis, Glaros,
Co-Sponsors Franklin, Taveras, Patterson and Toles
Date of Introduction May 17, 2016

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Support for Federal Railroad Administration Regulation on Crew Size

3 For the purpose of supporting and encouraging the rail safety rulemaking proposed by the
4 Federal Railroad Administration concerning on-board crew size.

5 WHEREAS, the safe operation of freight and passenger trains are vital to commerce; and

6 WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Council supports efforts to keep train operations
7 safe in Prince George's County; and

8 WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has published a notice of proposed
9 Rulemaking (NPRM) (49 CFR Part 218; Docket No. FRA-2014-0033; RIN 2130-AC48; Train
10 Crew Staffing) regarding adequate staffing on trains, a factor that is vital in ensuring safe train
11 operations; and

12 WHEREAS, polling across America shows overwhelming bi-partisan support for two-
13 person crews, with 83 to 87 percent of those polled in favor of mandating that trains are operated
14 by a crew of at least two qualified individuals; and

15 WHEREAS, national studies show that a minimum of two on-board crew members are vital
16 to operate a train safely and minimize the likelihood of train-related accidents; and

17 WHEREAS, most trains in North America are already operated by crews of at least two
18 individuals, making the economic impact of this proposed rule minimal; and

19 WHEREAS, the FRA agrees that, while advancements in automated technology such as
20 Positive Train Control (PTC) systems improve railroad safety, they are not a substitute for a
21 train's on-board crew members; and

22 WHEREAS, the FRA asserts that this rulemaking will add minimum requirements for the

1 size of different train crew staffs depending on the type of operation; and

2 WHEREAS, the FRA asserts that the minimum crew staffing requirements will mitigate the
3 safety risks posed to railroad employees, the general public, and the environment and account for
4 differences in costs; and

5 WHEREAS, the FRA asserts that this rulemaking will also establish minimum
6 requirements for the roles and responsibilities of the second train crew member on a moving
7 train, and promote safe and effective teamwork; and

8 WHEREAS, the FRA asserts that this rulemaking will permit a railroad to submit
9 information to FRA and seek approval if it wants to continue an existing operation with a one-
10 person train crew or start up an operation with less than two crew members.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
12 County, Maryland, that the Prince George's County Council does hereby encourage and support
13 the FRA's proposed Rulemaking (49 CFR Part 218; Docket No. FRA-2014-0033; RIN 2130-
14 AC48; Train Crew Staffing) requiring that trains operated in the United States be operated by no
15 less than a two-person crew; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be filed with the United States
17 Department of Transportation in the form of comments in support of the proposed federal rule.

Adopted this 17th day of May, 2016.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Derrick Leon Davis
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council