

H.R. 5449: Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2014

The Bill

The Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2014 (PRRIA) (H.R. 5449) is a four year, approximately \$5.8 billion passenger rail bill. On September 17, 2014, it was passed unanimously by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. It does not contain long-term dedicated funding for intercity passenger rail; it reduces funding to Amtrak but streamlines environmental provisions and sets in motion a process to enhance historic preservation provisions. It provides \$150 million a year for state supported intercity passenger rail and \$150 million for the Northeast Corridor; further, it makes PTC eligible for an enhanced RRIF program. Funds earned in the Northeast Corridor are to be deposited into a fund rather than used to cross-subsidize longer distance trains. It is modeled on recent bi-partisan water resources legislation that was passed and signed by the President.

<http://transportation.house.gov/uploadedfiles/hr5449.pdf>

Legislative History

Sponsor: Rep Shuster, Bill [PA-9] (introduced 9/11/2014)

Cosponsors (8):

Rep Brown, Corrine [FL-5] - 9/11/2014

Rep Coble, Howard [NC-6] - 9/17/2014

Rep Denham, Jeff [CA-10] - 9/11/2014

Rep Gibbs, Bob [OH-7] - 9/16/2014

Rep Hanna, Richard L. [NY-22] - 9/16/2014

Rep Miller, Candice S. [MI-10] - 9/17/2014

Rep Rahall, Nick J., II [WV-3] - 9/11/2014

Rep Williams, Roger [TX-25] - 9/17/2014

Latest Major Action: 9/17/2014 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Ordered to be reported by Voice Vote.

All Actions:

9/11/2014: Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

9/12/2014: Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials

9/17/2014: Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Discharged

9/17/2014: Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held

9/17/2014: Ordered to be reported by Voice Vote

House September 17, 2014 Mark-up: Video

<http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=393460>

Summaries of the Bill

September 23, 2014: Transportation for America

<http://t4america.org/2014/09/23/polemics-give-way-to-compromise-on-house-rail-bill/>

Related Legislation

S. 1710: Pets on Trains Act of 2013

S4PRC's and Other's Comments

September 16, 2014: S4PRC's Comments

http://s4prc.org/sites/default/files/media/091514_SPRC_Letter_re_PRRIA_2014_%28v2%29.pdf

September 16, 2014: AASHTO's Comments

<http://s4prc.org/sites/default/files/media/AASHTO%20PRRIA%20Support%20Letter%20091614.pdf>

September 24, 2014: Illinois DOT's Comments

<http://s4prc.org/sites/default/files/media/Illinois%20DOT%20Ltr%20on%20PRRIA.pdf>

October 9, 2014: California Intercity Passenger Rail (CIPR) Leadership Coalition's Comments

<http://s4prc.org/sites/default/files/media/CIPR%20Ltr%20on%20PRRIA.pdf>

Letters of Support

<http://transportation.house.gov/uploadedfiles/supporters.pdf>

Press Coverage

September 11, 2014: *House T & I Committee Press Release: Bill Introduced*

<http://transport.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=393119>

September 11, 2014: *House whacks Amtrak construction funds*

<http://thehill.com/policy/transportation/217411-house-rail-bill-cuts-amtrak-funding-40-percent>

September 12, 2014: *House transportation committee members introduce passenger-rail reauthorization bill*

http://www.progressiverailroading.com/federal_legislation_regulation/news/House-transportation-committee-members-introduce-passengerrail-reauthorization-bill--41850

September 13, 2014: *Bill would let Amtrak reinvest profits in Northeast Corridor*

http://articles.philly.com/2014-09-13/business/53855370_1_northeast-corridor-amtrak-president-joseph-boardman-money-losing-long-distance-routes

September 16, 2014: *Shuster on Amtrak bill: 'Nobody got everything'*

<http://thehill.com/policy/transportation/217944-shuster-on-amtrak-bill-nobody-got-everything>

September 17, 2014: *House T & I Committee Press Release: Bill Passed*

<http://transportation.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=393812>

October 16, 2014: *A Chat with Amtrak's CEO on the State of U.S. Passenger Rail*

<http://www.citylab.com/politics/2014/10/a-chat-with-amtraks-ceo-on-the-state-of-us-passenger-rail/381538/>

October 16, 2014: *'Pets on Trains' Plan Set in Motion*

<http://blogs.rollcall.com/the-container/pets-on-trains-plan-set-in-motion/?dcz=emailalert>

November 25, 2014: *Lipinski on track with new rail policy post in Congress*

<http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20141125/NEWS02/141129909/lipinski-on-track-with-new-rail-policy-post-in-congress>