

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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SENATE BILL 971

Short Title: Railroad Transfer/Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Lee; Daughtry and Block.

Referred to: Public Utilities.

May 27, 1992

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO TRANSFER RAILROAD SUPERVISION AND RAILROAD SAFETY
SUPERVISION FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND TO APPROPRIATE
FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE TRANSFER.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. The statutory authority, powers, duties, and functions, records, personnel, property, unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations or other funds, including the functions of budgeting and purchasing, of the Rail Safety Section of the Transportation Division of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, is transferred to the Department of Transportation.

Sec. 2. G.S. 62-3(6) reads as rewritten:

"(6) 'Common carrier' means any person which holds itself out to the general public to engage in transportation of persons or property for ~~compensation,~~ compensation by any mode except rail, including transportation by ~~train,~~ bus, truck, boat or any other conveyance, conveyance except train, and except as exempted in G.S. 62-260."

Sec. 3. G.S. 62-3(9) reads as rewritten:

"(9) 'Contract carrier' means any ~~person~~ person, except a rail carrier, which under an individual contract or agreement with another person and with such additional persons as may be approved by the Utilities Commission, engages in the transportation of persons or property for compensation, except as exempted in G.S. 62-260."

Sec. 4. G.S. 62-3(22) reads as rewritten:

1 "(22) 'Private carrier' means any ~~person~~ person, except a rail carrier, not
2 included in the definitions of common carrier or contract carrier,
3 which transports in intrastate commerce in its own vehicle or
4 vehicles property of which such person is the owner, lessee, or
5 bailee, when such transportation is for the purpose of sale, lease,
6 rent, or bailment, or when such transportation is purely an
7 incidental adjunct to some other established private business owned
8 and operated by such person other than the transportation of
9 property for compensation."

10 Sec. 5. G.S. 62-3(23) reads as rewritten:

11 "(23) a. 'Public utility' means a person, whether organized under the laws
12 of this State or under the laws of any other state or country, now or
13 hereafter owning or operating in this State equipment or facilities for:

- 14 1. Producing, generating, transmitting, delivering or
15 furnishing electricity, piped gas, steam or any other like
16 agency for the production of light, heat or power to or
17 for the public for compensation; provided, however, that
18 the term 'public utility' shall not include persons who
19 construct or operate an electric generating facility, the
20 primary purpose of which facility is for such person's
21 own use and not for the primary purpose of producing
22 electricity, heat, or steam for sale to or for the public for
23 compensation.
- 24 2. Diverting, developing, pumping, impounding,
25 distributing or furnishing water to or for the public for
26 compensation, or operating a public sewerage system for
27 compensation; provided, however, that the term "public
28 utility" shall not include any person or company whose
29 sole operation consists of selling water to less than 10
30 residential customers, except that any person or company
31 which constructs a water system in a subdivision with
32 plans for 10 or more lots and which holds itself out by
33 contracts or other means at the time of said construction
34 to serve an area containing more than 10 residential
35 building lots shall be a public utility at the time of such
36 planning or holding out to serve such 10 or more
37 building lots, without regard to the number of actual
38 customers connected;
- 39 3. Transporting persons or property by street, suburban or
40 interurban bus ~~or railways~~ for the public for
41 compensation;
- 42 4. Transporting persons or property by ~~railways~~ or motor
43 vehicles, or any other form of transportation or express
44 service for the public for compensation, except motor

- 1 carriers exempted in G.S. 62-260, except rail carriers,
2 and except carriers by air;
- 3 5. Transporting or conveying gas, crude oil or other fluid
4 substance by pipeline for the public for compensation;
- 5 6. Conveying or transmitting messages or communications
6 by telephone or telegraph, or any other means of
7 transmission, where such service is offered to the public
8 for compensation.
- 9 b. The term 'public utility' shall for rate-making purposes include
10 any person producing, generating or furnishing any of the
11 foregoing services to another person for distribution to or for
12 the public for compensation.
- 13 c. The term 'public utility' shall include all persons affiliated
14 through stock ownership with a public utility doing business in
15 this State as parent corporation or subsidiary corporation as
16 defined in G.S. 55-2 to such an extent that the Commission
17 shall find that such affiliation has an effect on the rates or
18 service of such public utility.
- 19 d. The term 'public utility,' except as otherwise expressly provided
20 in this Chapter, shall not include a municipality, an authority
21 organized under the North Carolina Water and Sewer
22 Authorities Act, electric or telephone membership corporation
23 or nonprofit water membership or consumer-owned
24 corporations financed by the Farmers Home Administration, the
25 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development,
26 or any similar or successor federal financing agency, provided,
27 that (i) any such financing administration, department or agency
28 exercise substantial control over and regulation of any such
29 corporation's rates and terms and conditions of service, and (ii)
30 the members or consumer-owners of any such corporation,
31 pursuant to the corporation's articles of incorporation and
32 bylaws, shall elect the governing board of the corporation; or
33 any person not otherwise a public utility who furnishes such
34 service or commodity only to himself, his employees or tenants
35 when such service or commodity is not resold to or used by
36 others; provided, however, that any person other than a
37 nonprofit organization serving only its members, who
38 distributes or provides utility service to his employees or
39 tenants by individual meters or by other coin-operated devices
40 with a charge for metered or coin-operated utility service shall
41 be a public utility within the definition and meaning of this
42 Chapter with respect to the regulation of rates and provisions of
43 service rendered through such meter or coin-operated device
44 imposing such separate metered utility charge. If any person

1 conducting a public utility shall also conduct any enterprise not
2 a public utility, such enterprise is not subject to the provisions
3 of this Chapter. A water or sewer system owned by a
4 homeowners' association that provides water or sewer service
5 only to members or leaseholds of members is not subject to the
6 provisions of this Chapter.

7 e. The term 'public utility' shall include the University of North
8 Carolina insofar as said University supplies telephone service,
9 electricity or water to the public for compensation from the
10 University Enterprises defined in G.S. 116-41.1(9).

11 f. The term 'public utility' shall include the Town of Pineville
12 insofar as said town supplies telephone services to the public
13 for compensation. The territory to be served by the Town of
14 Pineville in furnishing telephone services, subject to the Public
15 Utilities Act, shall include the town limits as they exist on May
16 8, 1973, and shall also include the area proposed to be annexed
17 under the town's ordinance adopted May 3, 1971, until January
18 1, 1975.

19 g. The term 'public utility' shall not include a hotel, motel, time
20 share or condominium complex operated primarily to serve
21 transient occupants, which imposes charges to occupants for
22 local, long-distance, or wide area telecommunication services
23 when such calls are completed through the use of facilities
24 provided by a public utility, and provided further that the local
25 services received are rated in accordance with the provisions of
26 G.S. 62-110(d) and the applicable charges for telephone calls
27 are prominently displayed in each area where occupant rooms
28 are located."

29 Sec. 6. G.S. 62-41 reads as rewritten:

30 **"§ 62-41. To investigate accidents involving public utilities; to promote general**
31 **safety program.**

32 The Commission may conduct a program of accident prevention and public safety
33 covering all public utilities with special emphasis on highway safety and transport
34 safety and may investigate the causes of any accident on a ~~railroad or~~ highway involving
35 a ~~public utility, or any accident in connection with any other~~ public utility. Any information
36 obtained upon such investigation shall be reduced to writing and a report thereof filed in
37 the office of the Commission, which shall be subject to public inspection but such report
38 shall not be admissible in evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding arising from
39 such accident. The Commission may adopt reasonable rules and regulations for the
40 safety of the public as affected by public utilities and the safety of public utility
41 employees. The Commission shall cooperate with and coordinate its activities for public
42 utilities with similar programs of the Division of Motor Vehicles, the Insurance
43 Department, the Industrial Commission and other organizations engaged in the
44 promotion of highway safety and employee safety."

1 Sec. 7. G.S. 62-300(a) reads as rewritten:

2 "(a) The Commission shall receive and collect the following fees and charges in
3 accordance with the classification of utilities as provided in rules and regulations of the
4 Commission, and no others:

- 5 (1) Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) with each notice of appeal to the
6 Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court, and with each notice of
7 application for a writ of certiorari.
- 8 (2) With each application for a new certificate or new permit for motor
9 ~~and rail~~ carrier rights, the fee shall be two hundred fifty dollars
10 (\$250.00) when filed by Class 1 motor ~~and rail~~ carriers, one
11 hundred dollars (\$100.00) when filed by Class 2 motor ~~and rail~~
12 carriers, and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) when filed by Class 3
13 motor ~~and rail~~ carriers, and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) as filing
14 fee for any amendment thereto so as to extend or enlarge the scope
15 of operations thereunder, and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each
16 broker who applies for a brokerage license under the provisions of
17 this Chapter.
- 18 (3) With each application for a general increase in rates, fares and
19 charges and for each filing of a tariff which seeks general increases
20 in rates, fares and charges, the fee will be five hundred dollars
21 (\$500.00) for Class A utilities and Class 1 motor ~~and rail~~ carriers,
22 two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for Class B utilities and Class 2
23 motor ~~and rail~~ carriers, one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for Class C
24 utilities and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for Class D utilities and
25 Class 3 motor ~~and rail~~ carriers; provided that in the case of an
26 application or tariff for a general increase in rates filed by a tariff
27 agent for more than one carrier, the applicable fee shall be the
28 highest fee prescribed for any motor carrier included in the
29 application or tariff. This fee shall not apply to applications for
30 adjustments in particular rates, fares, or charges for the purpose of
31 eliminating inequities, preferences or discriminations or to
32 applications to adjust rates and charges based solely on the
33 increased cost of fuel used in the generation or production of
34 electric power.
- 35 (4) One hundred dollars (\$100.00) ~~with each application for~~
36 ~~discontinuance of train service, or for a change in or discontinuance of~~
37 ~~station facilities and~~ with each application by motor carrier of
38 passengers for the abandonment or permanent or temporary
39 discontinuance of transportation service previously authorized in a
40 certificate.
- 41 (5) With each application for a certificate of public convenience and
42 necessity or for any amendment thereto so as to extend or enlarge
43 the scope of operations thereunder, the fee shall be two hundred
44 fifty dollars (\$250.00) for Class A utilities, one hundred dollars

- 1 (\$100.00) for Class B utilities, and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for
2 Class C and D utilities and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for any
3 other person seeking a certificate of public convenience and
4 necessity.
- 5 (5a) With each application by a bus company for an original certificate
6 of authority or for any amendment thereto or to an existing
7 certificate of public convenience and necessity so as to extend or
8 enlarge the scope of operations thereunder the fee shall be two
9 hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
- 10 (6) With each application for approval of the issuance of securities or
11 for the approval of any sale, lease, hypothecation, lien, or other
12 transfer of any property or operating rights of any carrier or public
13 utility over which the Commission has jurisdiction, the fee shall be
14 two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for Class A utilities and Class 1
15 motor ~~and rail~~ carriers, one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for Class B
16 utilities and Class 2 motor ~~and rail~~ carriers, and twenty-five dollars
17 (\$25.00) for Class C and D utilities and Class 3 motor ~~and rail~~
18 carriers; provided, that in the case of sales, leases and transfers
19 between two or more carriers or utilities, the applicable fee shall be
20 the highest fee prescribed for any party to the transaction.
- 21 (7) Ten dollars (\$10.00) with each application, petition, or complaint
22 not embraced in (2) through (6) of this section, wherein such
23 application, petition, or complaint seeks affirmative relief against a
24 carrier or public utility over which the Commission has
25 jurisdiction. This fee shall not apply to applications for adjustments
26 in particular rates, fares or charges for the purpose of eliminating
27 inequities, preferences or discriminations; nor shall this fee apply
28 to applications, petitions, or complaints made by any county, city
29 or town; nor shall this fee apply to applications or petitions made
30 by individuals seeking service or relief from a public utility.
- 31 (8) Repealed by Session Laws 1985, c. 454, s. 18.
- 32 (9) One dollar (\$1.00) for each page (8 1/2 x 11 inches) of transcript of
33 testimony, but not less than five dollars (\$5.00) for any such
34 transcript.
- 35 (10) Twenty cents (20¢) for each page of copies of papers, orders,
36 certificates or other records, but not less than one dollar (\$1.00) for
37 any such order or record, plus five dollars (\$5.00) for formal
38 certification of any such paper, order or record.
- 39 (11), (12) Repealed by Session Laws 1985, c. 454, s. 18."
- 40 Sec. 8. G.S. 40A-3(a) reads as rewritten:
- 41 "(a) Private Condemnors. – For the public use or benefit, the persons or
42 organizations listed below shall have the power of eminent domain and may acquire by
43 purchase or condemnation property for the stated purposes and other works which are
44 authorized by law.

1 (1) Corporations, bodies politic or persons have the power of eminent
2 domain for the construction of railroads, power generating
3 facilities, substations, switching stations, microwave towers, roads,
4 alleys, access railroads, turnpikes, street railroads, plank roads,
5 tramroads, canals, telegraphs, telephones, electric power lines,
6 electric lights, public water supplies, public sewerage systems,
7 flumes, bridges, and pipelines or mains originating in North
8 Carolina for the transportation of petroleum products, coal, gas,
9 limestone or minerals. Land condemned for any liquid pipelines
10 shall:

11 a. Not be less than 50 feet nor more than 100 feet in width; and

12 b. Comply with the provisions of G.S. 62-190(b).

13 The width of land condemned for any natural gas pipelines shall not be
14 more than 100 feet.

15 (2) School committees or boards of trustees or of directors of any
16 corporation holding title to real estate upon which any private
17 educational institution is situated, have the power of eminent
18 domain in order to obtain a pure and adequate water supply for
19 such institution.

20 (3) Franchised motor vehicle carriers or union bus station companies
21 organized by authority of the Utilities Commission, have the power
22 of eminent domain for the purpose of constructing and operating
23 union bus stations: Provided, that this subdivision shall not apply to
24 any city or town having a population of less than 60,000.

25 (4) Any railroad company has the power of eminent domain for the
26 purposes of: constructing union depots; maintaining, operating,
27 improving or straightening lines or of altering its location;
28 constructing double tracks; constructing and maintaining new yards
29 and terminal facilities or enlarging its yard or terminal facilities;
30 connecting two of its lines already in operation not more than six
31 miles apart; or constructing an industrial siding ordered by the
32 ~~Utilities Commission as provided in G.S. 62-232.~~ Department of
33 Transportation as provided in G.S. 136-203.

34 The width of land condemned for any single or double track railroad purpose shall
35 be not less than 80 feet nor more than 100 feet, except where the road may run through
36 a town, where it may be of less width, or where there may be deep cuts or high
37 embankments, where it may be of greater width.

38 No rights granted or acquired under this subsection shall in any way destroy or
39 abridge the rights of the State to regulate or control any railroad company or to regulate
40 foreign corporations doing business in this State. Whenever it is necessary for any
41 railroad company doing business in this State to cross the street or streets in a town or
42 city in order to carry out the orders of the ~~Utilities Commission,~~ Department of
43 Transportation to construct an industrial siding, the power is hereby conferred upon
44 such railroad company to occupy such street or streets of any such town or city within

1 the State. Provided, license so to do be first obtained from the board of aldermen, board
2 of commissioners, or other governing authorities of such town or city.

3 No such condemnor shall be allowed to have condemned to its use, without the
4 consent of the owner, his burial ground, usual dwelling house and yard, kitchen and
5 garden, unless condemnation of such property is expressly authorized by statute.

6 The power of eminent domain shall be exercised by private condemnors under the
7 procedures of Article 2 of this Chapter."

8 Sec. 9. G.S. 160A-195 reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 160A-195. Regulating speed of trains.**

10 A city may by ordinance regulate the speed at which railroad trains may be operated
11 within the corporate limits. Any such ordinance shall be filed with the ~~Utilities~~
12 ~~Commission~~ Department of Transportation as required by ~~G.S. 62-238.1~~ G.S. 136-210."

13 Sec. 10. G.S. 136-17.2 reads as rewritten:

14 **"§ 136-17.2. Members of the Board of Transportation represent entire State.**

15 The chairman and members of the Board of Transportation shall represent the entire
16 State in ~~highway~~ transportation matters and not represent any particular person, persons,
17 or area. The Board shall, from time to time, provide that one or more of its members or
18 representatives shall publicly hear any person or persons concerning ~~highway~~
19 transportation matters in each of said geographic areas of the State."

20 Sec. 11. G.S. 136-18 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

21 "(30) The Department of Transportation shall have and exercise such
22 general power and authority to supervise and control the railroads
23 of the State as may be necessary to carry out the laws providing for
24 their regulation, and all other powers and duties as may be
25 necessary or incident to the proper discharge of its duties."

26 Sec. 12. Article 11 of Chapter 62 of the General Statutes, G.S. 62-220 to 62-
27 247, is recodified as Article 15 of Chapter 136 of the General Statutes, G.S. 136-191 to
28 136-219. G.S. 62-192 is recodified as G.S. 136-220 and included within Article 15.
29 G.S. 62-319 is recodified as G.S. 136-221 and included within Article 15. G.S. 62-322
30 is recodified as G.S. 136-222 and included within Article 15. The Revisor of Statutes
31 shall change any references to "the Commission" to "the Department of
32 Transportation" and shall change the reference to "G.S. 62-238.1(b)" in G.S. 62-239,
33 recodified as G.S. 136-211, to "G.S. 136-210".

34 The following table serves as a locator for the statutes recodified by this
35 section:

<u>Original Section Number</u>	<u>Recodified Section Number</u>
G.S. 62-220	G.S. 136-191
G.S. 62-221	G.S. 136-192
G.S. 62-222	G.S. 136-193
G.S. 62-223	G.S. 136-194
G.S. 62-224	G.S. 136-195
G.S. 62-225	G.S. 136-196
G.S. 62-226	G.S. 136-197
G.S. 62-227	G.S. 136-198

1	G.S. 62-228	G.S. 136-199
2	G.S. 62-229	G.S. 136-200
3	G.S. 62-230	G.S. 136-201
4	G.S. 62-231	G.S. 136-202
5	G.S. 62-232	G.S. 136-203
6	G.S. 62-233	G.S. 136-204
7	G.S. 62-234	G.S. 136-205
8	G.S. 62-235	G.S. 136-206
9	G.S. 62-236	G.S. 136-207
10	G.S. 62-237	G.S. 136-208
11	G.S. 62-238	G.S. 136-209
12	G.S. 62-238.1	G.S. 136-210
13	G.S. 62-239	G.S. 136-211
14	G.S. 62-240	G.S. 136-212
15	G.S. 62-241	G.S. 136-213
16	G.S. 62-242	G.S. 136-214
17	G.S. 62-243	G.S. 136-215
18	G.S. 62-244	G.S. 136-216
19	G.S. 62-245	G.S. 136-217
20	G.S. 62-246	G.S. 136-218
21	G.S. 62-247	G.S. 136-219
22	G.S. 62-192	G.S. 136-220
23	G.S. 62-319	G.S. 136-221
24	G.S. 62-322	G.S. 136-222.

25 Sec. 13. Article 15 of Chapter 136 of the General Statutes, as created by
26 Section 12 of this act, is amended by adding a new section to read:

27 "**§ 136-190. Power to make and enforce rules for railroads.**

28 (a) The Department of Transportation shall administer and enforce the provisions
29 of this Article, and may adopt rules needed to accomplish the administration and
30 enforcement of the provisions of this Article."

31 Sec. 14. Article 15 of Chapter 136 of the General Statutes, as created by
32 Section 12 of this act, is amended by adding a new section to read:

33 "**§ 136-222. Tickets; conduct of passengers.**

34 The provisions of G.S. 62-149, 62-150, and 62-151, regarding the use of tickets and
35 the conduct of passengers on common carriers, apply to railroads regulated under this
36 Article."

37 Sec. 15. G.S. 62-235, as recodified as G.S. 136-205 by Section 12 of this act,
38 reads as rewritten:

39 "**§136-205. Department of Transportation to inspect railroads as to equipment and**
40 **facilities, and to require repair.**

41 (a) The Department of Transportation is empowered and directed, from time to
42 time, to carefully examine into and inspect the condition of each railroad, its equipment
43 and facilities, in regard to the safety and convenience of the public and the railroad

1 employees; and if any are found by it to be unsafe, it shall at once notify and require the
2 railroad company to put the same in repair.

3 (b) The Department of Transportation may conduct a program of accident
4 prevention and public safety covering all railroads and may investigate the cause of any
5 railroad accident. In order to facilitate this program, any railroad involved in an
6 accident that must be reported to the Federal Railroad Administration shall also notify
7 the Department of Transportation of the occurrence of the accident."

8 Sec. 16. G.S. 62-236, as recodified as G.S. 136-206 by Section 12 of this act,
9 reads as rewritten:

10 "**§136-206. To require installation and maintenance of ~~block-system-railroad traffic~~**
11 **signal and control systems, block signal systems, and safety devices;**
12 **automatic signals at railroad intersections.**

13 (a) The Department of Transportation ~~is empowered and directed to~~ may require
14 any railroad company to install and put in operation and maintain upon the whole or any
15 part of its road an appropriate system of railroad signals and controls, a block signal
16 system, system of telegraphy or any other reasonable safety device, but no railroad
17 company shall be required to install a block system upon any part of its road unless at
18 least eight trains each way per day are operated on that part.

19 (b) The Department of Transportation ~~is empowered and directed to~~ may require,
20 when public safety demands, where two or more railroads cross each other at a common
21 grade, or any railroad crosses any stream or harbor by means of a bridge, to install and
22 maintain such a system of ~~interlocking or automatic-interlocking, block, automatic, or~~
23 automatic block signals as will render it safe for engines and trains to pass over such
24 crossings or bridge without stopping, and to apportion the cost of installation and
25 maintenance between said railroads as may be just and proper."

26 Sec. 17. There is appropriated from the Highway Fund to the Department of
27 Transportation the sum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for the 1992-93
28 fiscal year to implement the provisions of this act. The Legislative Research
29 Commission's Committee on Railroads and Other Public Transportation shall study the
30 issue of funding for the railroad supervision and railroad safety supervision programs
31 transferred to the Department of Transportation in this act and shall make a
32 recommendation on future funding to the 1993 General Assembly.

33 Sec. 18. This act becomes effective July 1, 1992, provided that adequate
34 funds are appropriated by the General Assembly.