

HB 388 -- Railroad Security

Sponsor: Zweifel

This bill establishes the Local Community Rail Security Act of 2007. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires operators of rail facilities to provide the State Emergency Management Agency and the Division of Homeland Security within the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation with a comprehensive risk assessment. The requirements for the risk assessment are specified in the bill;
- (2) Requires operators of rail facilities to implement by September 1, 2010, a Community Protection Plan to protect rail infrastructure from acts of sabotage, terrorism, or other crimes. The requirements of the plan are specified in the bill and include descriptions of rail security, employee training, and the handling of hazardous materials;
- (3) Authorizes the Department of Transportation to fine a railroad \$50,000 per day for failure to comply with its orders to improve, modify, or change its community protection plan;
- (4) Establishes "whistle blower" protection for those who reveal noncompliance;
- (5) Requires rail contractors and subcontractors and their employees to meet the same standards as employees of the railroad; and
- (6) Specifies that information submitted to the state agencies is a closed record.