

PL 100-342, 1988 S 1539

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PL 100-342 (S 1539)

June 22, 1988

An Act to amend the Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970 and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States
of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. 9. AUTOMATIC TRAIN CONTROL AND RELATED SYSTEMS.

Section 202 of the Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970 is amended by adding at the end
the following new subsections:

"(j) Within 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall
issue such rules, regulations, orders, and standards as may be necessary to require that --

"(1) whoever performs any test required by the Secretary of an automatic train stop,
train control, or cab signal apparatus prior to entering territory where such apparatus will
be used shall certify in writing that such test was properly performed; and

"(2) that such certification shall be kept and maintained in the same manner and place as
the daily inspection report for that locomotive.

"(k)(1) All trains operating after April 1, 1990, on the main line of the Northeast
Corridor between Washington, D.C., and Boston, Massachusetts, or on the feeder line
referred to in section 704(a)(1)(B) of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform
Act of 1976, shall be equipped with automatic train control systems designed to slow or
stop a train in response to external signals.

"(2) If the Secretary finds that it is impractical to equip all trains as required under paragraph (1) before April 1, 1990, the Secretary may extend the deadline for compliance with such requirement, but in no event shall such deadline be extended past July 1, 1990.

"(l) The Secretary, in consultation with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, freight carriers, commuter agencies, employee representatives, railroad passengers, and rail equipment manufacturers, shall undertake a study of the advisability and feasibility of requiring automatic train control systems, including systems using advanced technology, such as transponder and satellite relay systems, on each rail corridor on which passengers or hazardous materials are carried. Such study shall include --

"(1) a specific assessment of the dangers of not requiring automatic train control systems on each such corridor, based on analysis of the number of passenger trains, persons, and freight trains traveling on such corridor daily, the frequency of train movements, mileage traveled, and the incident and accident history on such corridor;

"(2) an analysis of the cost of requiring such systems to be installed on each specific corridor; and

"(3) an investigation of alternative means of accomplishing the same safety objectives as would be achieved by requiring automatic train control systems to be installed.

The Secretary shall transmit to the Congress by April 1, 1990, a report detailing the results of such study."