S T A T E  O F  N E W  Y O R K

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I N  A S S E M B L Y

May 16, 2014

Introduced by M. of A. ORTIZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT in relation to authorizing the commissioner of transportation to conduct a study regarding feasibility of expanding freight railroad service within the state

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The commissioner of transportation is authorized and directed to conduct a study regarding the feasibility of expanding freight railroad service within the state. Such study shall focus on the costs and benefits of such an expansion, and shall include, but not limited to:

1. the economic impact of freight rail service on cities and other local municipalities;

2. the environmental impact of expanded freight railroad service, including but not limited to:

a. the impact of noise on the affected environment resulting from, engine idling, whistle blowing and general train operation;

b. the impact of engine emissions on air quality;

c. the impact of such service on local ecosystems and habitats;

3. the economic impact of freight railroad service on other freight delivery carriers;

4. the economic costs to repair and maintain expanded freight railroad service to make it a viable option for freight delivery as compared to other freight delivery carriers;

5. the potential to build additional intermodal railroad yards, and repair, expand and modernize existing intermodal railroad yards throughout the state to serve as hubs for the loading and unloading of freight;

6. the availability of capital grants from the federal government to assist in funding such a project;

7. a general cost benefit analysis regarding the expansion of freight railroad service within the state; and

8. any other information the commissioner of transportation deems relevant.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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S 2. A report of the findings of such study and recommendations of the commissioner of transportation shall be delivered to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly within one year after the effective date of this act.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.