

1089

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 8, 2015

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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 ASSEM-  
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1     Section 1. The commissioner of transportation is authorized and  
2 directed to conduct a study regarding the feasibility of expanding  
3 freight railroad service within the state. Such study shall focus on the  
4 costs and benefits of such an expansion, and shall include, but not  
5 limited to:  
6     1. the economic impact of freight rail service on cities and other  
7 local municipalities;  
8     2. the environmental impact of expanded freight railroad service,  
9 including but not limited to:  
10     a. the impact of noise on the affected environment resulting from,  
11 engine idling, whistle blowing and general train operation;  
12     b. the impact of engine emissions on air quality;  
13     c. the impact of such service on local ecosystems and habitats;  
14     3. the economic impact of freight railroad service on other freight  
15 delivery carriers;  
16     4. the economic costs to repair and maintain expanded freight railroad  
17 service to make it a viable option for freight delivery as compared to  
18 other freight delivery carriers;  
19     5. the potential to build additional intermodal railroad yards, and  
20 repair, expand and modernize existing intermodal railroad yards through-  
21 out the state to serve as hubs for the loading and unloading of freight;  
22     6. the availability of capital grants from the federal government to  
23 assist in funding such a project;

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

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

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

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

10       S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.