

1089

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 8, 2015

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.