

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1282

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to establish national safety standards for transit agencies operating heavy rail on fixed guideway.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 31, 2011

Ms. EDWARDS (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. HOYER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to establish national safety standards for transit agencies operating heavy rail on fixed guideway.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Metro Safety
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Every weekday more than 7,000,000 people
9 board rail transit vehicles in the United States.

1 (2) Despite the National Transportation Safety
2 Board's recommendations to the Federal Transit
3 Administration to establish and enforce Federal
4 safety standards for transit agencies operating heavy
5 rail on fixed guideway, the Federal Transit Adminis-
6 tration has not taken action because of a perceived
7 absence of authority to establish such standards.

8 (3) The Federal Transit Administration has not
9 established minimum Federal standards that govern
10 the structural crashworthiness of heavy rail pas-
11 senger cars on fixed guideway.

12 (4) The National Transportation Safety Board
13 concluded that the failure to have minimum crash-
14 worthiness standards places an unnecessary risk on
15 passengers and crew.

16 (5) The Federal Transit Administration does
17 not have any requirements that rail transit cars be
18 equipped with means for safe and rapid emergency
19 responder entry and passenger evacuation.

20 (6) Although the installation of data recorders
21 on rail transit cars would help investigators deter-
22 mine the factors contributing to crashes, the Federal
23 Transit Administration does not require such instal-
24 lation.

1 (7) Although the National Transportation Safe-
2 ty Board has expressed concern that the hours of
3 service practices of transit agencies do not provide
4 transit vehicle operators with the opportunity to ob-
5 tain adequate sleep to be fully alert and to operate
6 safely, the Federal Transit Administration does not
7 have hours of service regulations to govern the prac-
8 tices of transit agencies.

9 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL RAIL TRANSIT SAFETY STANDARDS.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Notwithstanding section
11 5334(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, the Secretary
12 of Transportation, in consultation with the National
13 Transportation Safety Board shall, by regulation, develop,
14 implement, and enforce national safety standards for tran-
15 sit agencies operating heavy rail on fixed guideway.

16 (b) INCLUSION OF NTSB RECOMMENDATIONS.—The
17 standards established under subsection (a) shall include
18 the standards recommended to the Federal Transit Ad-
19 ministration by the National Transportation Safety Board
20 related to crashworthiness, emergency access and egress,
21 event recorders, and hours of service.

22 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date
23 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
24 tation shall submit a report to Congress that describes the

- 1 progress made in establishing the standards described in
- 2 subsection (a).

