

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6226

To address an issue with respect to Amtrak, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2020

Mr. LIPINSKI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To address an issue with respect to Amtrak, and for other
purposes.

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 shall be known as the “Improving the Metra
5 Commuter Experience Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF CHI-**
7 **CAGO UNION STATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—No later than 180 days after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, Amtrak shall transfer oper-
10 ational control, as defined in this section, of Chicago
11 Union Station to Metra.

1 (b) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—

2 (1) Shall mean certain control over track, sig-
3 nal, and railroad operations outside the Chicago
4 Union Station building, colloquially known as “out-
5 side the glass doors”, including the following:

6 (A) Dispatching of local trains from Canal
7 Street to Alton Junction out of Metra’s Consoli-
8 dated Control Facility.

9 (B) Joint policing of Chicago Union Sta-
10 tion, with each respective police force having
11 separate areas of primary responsibility.
12 Metra’s primary patrol responsibilities shall be
13 the passenger concourse, the platforms, and
14 areas immediately outside the glass doors.

15 (C) Maintenance and capital improvement
16 of passenger platforms, tracks, and signals
17 from Canal Street to Roosevelt Road.

18 (2) Shall not mean the following:

19 (A) Any dispatching of intercity trains out-
20 side the Chicago Union Station terminal.

21 (B) Any dispatching of Amtrak yard move-
22 ments.

23 (C) Any maintenance or other obligations
24 related to the overbuilds above the tracks at
25 Chicago Union Station.

1 (D) Any baggage handling related to Am-
2 trak's operations.

3 (c) CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.—It is the intent of
4 Congress that under the agreement required by this sec-
5 tion—

6 (1) Amtrak should pay operating and capital
7 costs incurred at Chicago Union Station for Am-
8 trak's sole benefit;

9 (2) Amtrak should pay an allocated portion of
10 those operating and capital costs incurred at Chi-
11 cago Union Station for Amtrak's and Metra's joint
12 benefit; and

13 (3) Metra shall not make payment to operate
14 outside of the glass doors.

15 **SEC. 3. SECRETARY VERIFICATION.**

16 One hundred eighty (180) days after the date of en-
17 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall notify the Com-
18 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
19 Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
20 structure of the House of Representatives with respect to
21 whether Amtrak has complied with section 2 of this Act.

22 **SEC. 4. PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY.**

23 If the Secretary notifies the relevant committees, as
24 required by section 3 of this Act, that Amtrak has failed
25 to comply with section 2 of this Act, the Secretary shall

1 withhold 5 percent of the unobligated balance of funds for
2 Amtrak made available by Public Law 116–94 or by any
3 law providing appropriations that is enacted subsequent
4 to the date of enactment of such Act until the Secretary
5 has notified the relevant committees that Amtrak is in
6 compliance with this Act.

7 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

8 The following definitions shall apply in this Act:

9 (a) SECRETARY.—In this Act, “Secretary” shall
10 mean the Secretary of Transportation.

11 (b) NATIONAL PASSENGER RAIL CORPORATION (AM-
12 TRAK).—“Amtrak” means the entity established in section
13 301 of Public Law 91–518.

14 (c) CHICAGO UNION STATION.—“Chicago Union Sta-
15 tion” means the passenger train station located at 225
16 South Canal Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606, and its asso-
17 ciated facilities.

18 (d) METRA.—“Metra” means the Northeast Illinois
19 Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation.

20 (e) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—“Operational Control”
21 shall mean the definition established in section 2(b).

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