

116TH CONGRESS 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, sign
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 Cana
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 a
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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