

**CHAPTER 17—RAILROAD REVITALIZATION  
AND REGULATORY REFORM**

**SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Sec.	
801.	Declaration of policy.
802.	Definitions.
803.	Repealed.

**SUBCHAPTER II—RAILROAD REHABILITATION  
AND IMPROVEMENT FINANCING**

821.	Definitions.
822.	Direct loans and loan guarantees.
823.	Administration of direct loans and loan guarantees.
824 to 835.	Repealed or Transferred.
836.	Employee protection.
837, 838.	Repealed.

**SUBCHAPTER III—NORTHEAST CORRIDOR  
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

851 to 856. Repealed.

**SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**§ 801. Declaration of policy**

**(a) Purpose**

It is the purpose of the Congress in this Act to provide the means to rehabilitate and maintain the physical facilities, improve the operations and structure, and restore the financial stability of the railway system of the United States, and to promote the revitalization of such railway system, so that this mode of transportation will remain viable in the private sector of the economy and will be able to provide energy-efficient, ecologically compatible transportation services with greater efficiency, effectiveness, and economy, through—

- (1) ratemaking and regulatory reform;
- (2) the encouragement of efforts to restructure the system on a more economically justified basis, including planning authority in the Secretary of Transportation, an expedited procedure for determining whether merger and consolidation applications are in the public interest, and continuing reorganization authority;
- (3) financing mechanisms that will assure adequate rehabilitation and improvement of facilities and equipment, implementation of the final system plan, and implementation of the Northeast Corridor project;
- (4) transitional continuation of service on light-density rail lines that are necessary to continued employment and community well-being throughout the United States;
- (5) auditing, accounting, reporting, and other requirements to protect Federal funds and to assure repayment of loans and financial responsibility; and
- (6) necessary studies.

**(b) Policy**

It is declared to be the policy of the Congress in this Act to—

- (1) balance the needs of carriers, shippers, and the public;
- (2) foster competition among all carriers by railroad and other modes of transportation, to promote more adequate and efficient transportation services, and to increase the attractiveness of investing in railroads and rail-service-related enterprises;

(3) permit railroads greater freedom to raise or lower rates for rail services in competitive markets;

(4) promote the establishment of railroad rate structures which are more sensitive to changes in the level of seasonal, regional, and shipper demand;

(5) promote separate pricing of distinct rail and rail-related services;

(6) formulate standards and guidelines for determining adequate revenue levels for railroads; and

(7) modernize and clarify the functions of railroad rate bureaus.

(Pub. L. 94-210, title I, §101, Feb. 5, 1976, 90 Stat. 33.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This Act, referred to in text, means Pub. L. 94-210, Feb. 5, 1976, 90 Stat. 31, as amended, known as the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out below and Tables.

**SHORT TITLE**

Pub. L. 94-210, §1, Feb. 5, 1976, 90 Stat. 31, provided in part that this Act [enacting this chapter and sections 726 and 745 to 747 of this title, and sections 1a, 5c, 26b, 26c, 1613, 1653a, 1654, and 1657a of former Title 49, Transportation, amending sections 543, 545, 546, 562 to 564, 702, 711 to 713, 715, 716, 718 to 721, 724, 725, 741, 743, 744, 762, 763, 771, 772, 774, 775, 778, 779, and 791 of this title, sections 77c, 77s, 78m, and 80a-3 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade, sections 11 and 856 of former Title 31, Money and Finance, and sections 1, 1a, 5, 5b, 6, 12, 13, 15, 15a, 17, 20, 27, 314, 1653, 1658, and 1659 of former Title 49, repealing sections 761 to 762 of this title, enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 745, 761, 791, and 793 of this title, sections 77c and 80a-3 of Title 15, and sections 1, 1a, 5b, 5c, 17, and 1654 of former Title 49, and amending notes set out under section 1651 of former Title 49] may be cited as the "Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976".

**§ 802. Definitions**

As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise indicates, the term—

- (1) "Association" means the United States Railway Association;
- (2) "Commission" means the Interstate Commerce Commission;
- (3) "Corporation" means the Consolidated Rail Corporation;
- (4) "final system plan" means the final system plan and any additions thereto adopted by the Association pursuant to the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (45 U.S.C. 701 et seq.);
- (5) "includes" and variants thereof should be read as if the phrase "but is not limited to" were also set forth;
- (6) "Office" means the Rail Services Planning Office of the Commission;
- (7) "railroad" has the meaning given that term in section 20102 of title 49; and
- (8) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Transportation or his designated representative.

(Pub. L. 94-210, title I, §102, Feb. 5, 1976, 90 Stat. 33; Pub. L. 97-468, title VI, §615(b)(2), Jan. 14, 1983, 96 Stat. 2578; Pub. L. 104-88, title III, §330(1), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 953; Pub. L. 109-59, title IX, §9003(a), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1921.)

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The Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973, referred to in par. (4), is Pub. L. 93-236, Jan. 2, 1974, 87 Stat. 985, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 16 (§ 701 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 701 of this title and Tables.

## AMENDMENTS

2005—Par. (7). Pub. L. 109-59 amended par. (7) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (7) read as follows: “‘railroad’ means a rail carrier subject to part A of subtitle IV of title 49, and includes the National Railroad Passenger Corporation; and”.

1995—Par. (7). Pub. L. 104-88 substituted “rail carrier subject to part A of subtitle IV of title 49” for “common carrier by railroad or express, as defined in section 1(3) of the Interstate Commerce Act (49 U.S.C. 1(3))”.

1983—Par. (7). Pub. L. 97-468 struck out “and the Alaska Railroad” before the semicolon at end.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-88 effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as an Effective Date note under section 701 of Title 49, Transportation.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1983 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-468 effective on date of transfer of Alaska Railroad to the State [Jan. 5, 1985], pursuant to section 1203 of this title, see section 615(b) of Pub. L. 97-468.

ABOLITION OF INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION AND  
TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Interstate Commerce Commission abolished and functions of Commission transferred, except as otherwise provided in Pub. L. 104-88, to Surface Transportation Board effective Jan. 1, 1996, by section 702 of Title 49, Transportation, and section 101 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as a note under section 701 of Title 49. References to Interstate Commerce Commission deemed to refer to Surface Transportation Board, a member or employee of the Board, or Secretary of Transportation, as appropriate, see section 205 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as a note under section 701 of Title 49.

ABOLITION OF UNITED STATES RAILWAY ASSOCIATION AND  
TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS AND SECURITIES

See section 1341 of this title.

**§ 803. Repealed. Pub. L. 97-449, § 7(b), Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2443**

Section, Pub. L. 94-210, title IX, § 905, Feb. 5, 1976, 90 Stat. 148, directed that no person in the United States be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex with regard to any activity funded in whole or in part under this Act and provided for cut-off of funds to and civil action against any person who persisted in failure to comply. See section 306 of Title 49, Transportation.

SUBCHAPTER II—RAILROAD REHABILITATION  
AND IMPROVEMENT FINANCING**§ 821. Definitions**

For purposes of this subchapter:

(1)(A) The term “cost” means the estimated long-term cost to the Government of a direct loan or loan guarantee or modification thereof, calculated on a net present value basis, ex-

cluding administrative costs and any incidental effects on governmental receipts or outlays.

(B) The cost of a direct loan shall be the net present value, at the time when the direct loan is disbursed, of the following estimated cash flows:

(i) Loan disbursements.

(ii) Repayments of principal.

(iii) Payments of interest and other payments by or to the Government over the life of the loan after adjusting for estimated defaults, prepayments, fees, penalties, and other recoveries.

Calculation of the cost of a direct loan shall include the effects of changes in loan terms resulting from the exercise by the borrower of an option included in the loan contract.

(C) The cost of a loan guarantee shall be the net present value, at the time when the guaranteed loan is disbursed, of the following estimated cash flows:

(i) Payments by the Government to cover defaults and delinquencies, interest subsidies, or other payments.

(ii) Payments to the Government, including origination and other fees, penalties, and recoveries.

Calculation of the cost of a loan guarantee shall include the effects of changes in loan terms resulting from the exercise by the guaranteed lender of an option included in the loan guarantee contract, or by the borrower of an option included in the guaranteed loan contract.

(D) The cost of a modification is the difference between the current estimate of the net present value of the remaining cash flows under the terms of a direct loan or loan guarantee contract, and the current estimate of the net present value of the remaining cash flows under the terms of the contract, as modified.

(E) In estimating net present values, the discount rate shall be the average interest rate on marketable Treasury securities of similar maturity to the cash flows of the direct loan or loan guarantee for which the estimate is being made.

(F) When funds are obligated for a direct loan or loan guarantee, the estimated cost shall be based on the current assumptions, adjusted to incorporate the terms of the loan contract, for the fiscal year in which the funds are obligated.

(2) The term “current” has the same meaning as in section 900(c)(9) of title 2.

(3) The term “direct loan” means a disbursement of funds by the Government to a non-Federal borrower under a contract that requires the repayment of such funds. The term includes the purchase of, or participation in, a loan made by another lender and financing arrangements that defer payment for more than 90 days, including the sale of a Government asset on credit terms. The term does not include the acquisition of a federally guaranteed loan in satisfaction of default claims.

(4) The term “direct loan obligation” means a binding agreement by the Secretary to make