

Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1904, effective on the sale date (Apr. 2, 1987).

Section 797l of this title, referred to in subsec. (a), was repealed by Pub. L. 99-509, title IV, § 4033(a)(2), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1908, and a new section 797l of this title was subsequently added by Pub. L. 104-88, § 327(5).

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 1302 of Title 49, Transportation, and section 101 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as a note under section 1301 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 1301 of Title 49.

**§ 797j. Preemption**

No State may adopt or continue in force any law, rule, regulation, order, or standard requiring the Corporation to employ any specified number of persons to perform any particular task, function, or operation, or requiring the Corporation to pay protective benefits to employees, and no State in the Region may adopt or continue in force any such law, rule, regulation, order, or standard with respect to any railroad in the Region.

(Pub. L. 93-236, title VII, § 711, as added Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, § 1143(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 667; amended Pub. L. 103-272, § 7(b), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1379.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-272 struck out “, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, or the Amtrak Commuter Services Corporation” before “to employ any”.

**§ 797k. Factfinding panel**

**(a) Purpose**

The Corporation shall enter into collective bargaining agreements with its employees which provide for the establishment of one or more advisory factfinding panels, chaired by a neutral expert in industrial relations, for purposes of recommending changes in operating practices and procedures which result in greater productivity to the maximum extent practicable.

**(b) National Mediation Board**

The National Mediation Board shall appoint public members to any panel established by an agreement entered into under this subparagraph, and shall perform such functions contained in the agreement as are consistent with the duties of such Board under the Railway Labor Act [45 U.S.C. 151 et seq.].

**(c) Other functions**

The factfinding panel may, before making its report to the parties, provide mediation, conciliation, and other assistance to the parties.

(Pub. L. 93-236, title VII, § 712, as added Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, § 1143(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 668.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Railway Labor Act, referred to in subsec. (b), is act May 20, 1926, ch. 347, 44 Stat. 577, as amended, which

is classified principally to chapter 8 (§151 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 151 of this title and Tables.

**§ 797l. Class II railroads receiving Federal assistance**

The Surface Transportation Board shall impose no labor protection conditions in approving an application under section 10902 of title 49 when the application involves a Class II rail carrier which—

(1) is headquartered in a State, and operates in at least one State, with a population of less than 1,000,000 persons, as determined by the 1990 census; and

(2) has, as of January 1, 1996, been a recipient of repayable Federal Railroad Administration assistance in excess of \$5,000,000.

(Pub. L. 93-236, title VII, § 713, as added Pub. L. 104-88, title III, § 327(5)(A), formerly § 327(5), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 952, renumbered Pub. L. 104-287, § 6(f)(4)(B), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3399.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 797l, Pub. L. 93-236, title VII, § 713, as added Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, § 1143(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 668, authorized appropriations to carry out activities for protection of employees of Consolidated Rail Corporation, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 99-509, title IV, § 4033(a)(2), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1908.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as a note under section 1301 of Title 49, Transportation.

**§ 797m. Arbitration**

Any dispute or controversy with respect to the interpretation, application, or enforcement of the provisions of this subchapter, except sections 797b, 797c, 797g, and 797l<sup>1</sup> of this title, or section 1144 of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981, and except those matters subject to judicial review under section 1152 of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981 [45 U.S.C. 1105], which have not been resolved within 90 days, may be submitted by either party to an Adjustment Board for a final and binding decision thereon as provided in section 153 of this title, in which event the burden of proof on all issues so presented shall be on the Corporation, or the Association, where appropriate.

(Pub. L. 93-236, title VII, § 714, as added Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, § 1143(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 668.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 797l of this title, referred to in text, was repealed by Pub. L. 99-509, title IV, § 4033(a)(2), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1908, and a new section 797l of this title was subsequently added by Pub. L. 104-88, § 327(5).

Section 1144 of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981, referred to in text, is section 1144 of Pub. L. 97-35, title XI, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 669, which repealed subchapter V (§ 771 et seq.) of this chapter and sections 910 and 1006 of this title and enacted provisions set out as a note under section 771 of this title.

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

See section 1341 of this title.

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

**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 OF 2015 AMENDMENT**

Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title XI, § 11601(a), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1693, provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle F (§§ 11601–11611) of title XI of div. A of Pub. L. 114-94, amending sections 821 to 823 of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 821 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Railroad Infrastructure Financing Improvement Act’.”

**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