

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 66

BY TRANSPORTATION AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATED FREIGHT TRANS-
2 PORTATION PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTION 49-2905, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE
3 PROVISIONS TO REFLECT THE ACCURATE PURPOSE FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN
4 INFORMATION TO THE INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP BY THE IDAHO TRANSPORTA-
5 TION DEPARTMENT.
6

7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

8 SECTION 1. That Section 49-2905, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
9 amended to read as follows:

10 49-2905. STATE RAIL AND INTERMODAL FACILITY SYSTEM PLAN. (1) The Idaho
11 transportation department shall prepare and periodically update a state
12 rail and intermodal facility system plan, a primary objective of which is to
13 identify, evaluate and encourage the development and preservation of essen-
14 tial rail and truck intermodal services. The plan shall:

15 (a) Identify and describe the state's rail system;

16 (b) Prepare state rail system maps;

17 (c) Identify and evaluate mainline capacity issues in cooperation with
18 the railroads;

19 (d) Identify and evaluate rail access and congestion issues;

20 (e) Identify and evaluate rail commodity flows and traffic types;

21 (f) Identify lines and corridors that have been rail banked or pre-
22 served;

23 (g) Identify and evaluate other rail and intermodal issues affect-
24 ing the state's freight transportation system and regional and local
25 economies;

26 (h) Identify and evaluate those rail freight lines that are potentially
27 subject to abandonment in the future because of unmet capital needs or
28 other reasons, or have recently been approved for abandonment but the
29 track improvements are still in place;

30 (i) Whenever possible provide priorities for determining which rail
31 lines or intermodal commerce authorities should receive state support,
32 and provide to the interagency working group supporting information
33 used in establishing such priorities for use by the interagency working
34 group in advising the department of agriculture. The priorities should
35 include:

36 (i) The anticipated benefits to the state and local economy;

37 (ii) Coordinated freight transportation system including the an-
38 ticipated cost of road and highway improvements necessitated by
39 the proposed project;

40 (iii) Establishment of an intermodal facility, if indicated;

1 (iv) The likelihood the qualified line receiving funding can meet
2 operating costs from freight charges, surcharges on rail traffic
3 and other funds; and

4 (v) The impact of abandonment or capacity constraints if the
5 project does not obtain state support; and

6 (j) Identify and describe the state's intermodal rural rail and truck
7 freight system by:

8 (i) Preparing state intermodal and regional freight transfer
9 station system maps;

10 (ii) Identifying and evaluating intermodal and truck and rail
11 freight transfer capacity and coordination issues in cooperation
12 with local government and the railroad and truck interests;

13 (iii) Identifying and evaluating intermodal and freight transfer
14 access and highway capacity issues; and

15 (iv) Identifying and evaluating major freight commodity origins,
16 destinations and traffic flows by mode and corridor.

17 (2) The Idaho transportation department shall provide information to
18 the interagency working group ~~for assisting and advising the department of~~
19 ~~agriculture to monitor~~ related to the status of the state's mainline, short
20 line and branch line common carrier railroads through the state rail plan-
21 ning process and various analyses. In addition, the Idaho transportation
22 department shall submit to the interagency working group, its evaluation of
23 alternatives to abandonment prior to federal surface transportation board
24 proceedings, where feasible.

25 (3) The state rail and intermodal facility system plan may be prepared
26 in conjunction with any rail plan currently prepared by the Idaho trans-
27 portation department pursuant to other federal rail assistance programs,
28 or which may be enacted, including if applicable, the federal local rail
29 freight assistance program.

30 (4) The Idaho transportation department shall determine the amount of
31 moneys necessary to prepare and periodically update the state rail plan re-
32 quired by subsection (1) of this section, and communicate that amount to the
33 department of agriculture who shall annually provide to the transportation
34 department moneys in an amount not to exceed one percent (1%) of the total as-
35 sets in the fund established by section 49-2904, Idaho Code, to prepare and
36 periodically update the state rail plan. The Idaho transportation depart-
37 ment is hereby authorized to accumulate these funds not to exceed an aggre-
38 gate amount of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for preparing and pe-
39 riodically updating the state rail plan.