

By: Senator(s) Dawkins

To: Highways and
Transportation;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2868

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI RAIL CROSSING SAFETY TASK
2 FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE WITH
3 REGARD TO PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF RAIL CROSSING SAFETY IN
4 MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Rail
7 Crossing Safety Task Force to study and make recommendations with
8 regard to present and future needs of rail crossing safety in
9 Mississippi. The task force shall make a report of its findings
10 and recommendations to the Legislature annually, including any
11 recommended legislation.

12 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following nine
13 (9) members:

14 (a) The Chairman of the House Transportation Committee;

15 (b) The Chairman of the Senate Highways and
16 Transportation Committee;

17 (c) Two (2) members of the Department of
18 Transportation, appointed by the executive director of the
19 department;

20 (d) Two (2) members of the Office of Public Safety
21 Planning, appointed by the Governor;

22 (e) The Executive Director of Mississippi
23 Municipalities Association, or his designee;

24 (f) The Executive Director of Mississippi Association
25 of County Supervisors, or his designee;

26 (g) A representative of the Canadian National/Illinois
27 Central Railroad;

28 (h) A representative of the Norfolk Southern Railway
29 Company;

30 (i) A representative of the Kansas City Southern Rail
31 Company;

32 (j) A representative of CSX Transportation;

33 (k) A representative of the Burlington Northern and
34 Santa Fe Railway Company;

35 (l) A representative of the Columbus and Greenville
36 Railway Company;

37 (m) A representative of the Mississippi Export Railway
38 Company; and

39 (n) A representative from each of the shortline
40 railroads.

41 (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
42 the effective date of this act, and, within fifteen (15) days
43 thereafter on a day to be designated jointly by the Speaker of the
44 House and the Lieutenant Governor; the task force shall meet and
45 organize by selecting from its membership a chairman and a vice
46 chairman. The vice chairman shall also serve as secretary and
47 shall be responsible for keeping all records of the task force. A
48 majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a
49 quorum. In the selection of its officers and the adoption of
50 rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of a majority
51 of the task force shall be required. All members shall be
52 notified in writing of all meetings, such notices to be mailed at
53 least fifteen (15) days before the date on which a meeting is to
54 be held.

55 (4) Members of the task force who are not legislators, state
56 officials or state employees shall be compensated at the per diem
57 rate authorized by Section 25-3-69 and shall be reimbursed in
58 accordance with Section 25-3-41 for mileage and actual expenses
59 incurred in the performance of their duties. Legislative members
60 of the task force shall be paid from the contingent expense funds

61 of their respective houses in the same manner as provided for
62 committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session.
63 However, no per diem or expense for attending meetings of the task
64 force may be paid to legislative members of the task force while
65 the Legislature is in session. No task force member may incur per
66 diem, travel or other expenses unless previously authorized by
67 vote, at a meeting of the task force, which action shall be
68 recorded in the official minutes of the meeting. Nonlegislative
69 members shall be paid from any funds made available to the task
70 force for that purpose.

71 (5) To effectuate the purposes of this section, any
72 department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the
73 state or of any political subdivision thereof shall, at the
74 request of the chairman of the task force, provide to the task
75 force such facilities, assistance and data as will enable the task
76 force properly to carry out its duties.

77 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
78 and after July 1, 2007.