

## Public Law 93-633

## AN ACT

January 3, 1975  
[H. R. 15223]

To regulate commerce by improving the protections afforded the public against risks connected with the transportation of hazardous materials, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That this Act may be cited as the "Transportation Safety Act of 1974".

Transportation  
Safety Act of  
1974.  
49 USC 1801  
note.  
Hazardous Mate-  
rials Transporta-  
tion Act.

## TITLE I—HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

## SHORT TITLE

49 USC 1801  
note.

SEC. 101. This title may be cited as the "Hazardous Materials Transportation Act".

## DECLARATION OF POLICY

49 USC 1801.

SEC. 102. It is declared to be the policy of Congress in this title to improve the regulatory and enforcement authority of the Secretary of Transportation to protect the Nation adequately against the risks to life and property which are inherent in the transportation of hazardous materials in commerce.

## DEFINITIONS

49 USC 1802.

SEC. 103. As used in this title, the term—

(1) "commerce" means trade, traffic, commerce, or transportation, within the jurisdiction of the United States, (A) between a place in a State and any place outside of such State, or (B) which affects trade, traffic, commerce, or transportation described in clause (A);

(2) "hazardous material" means a substance or material in a quantity and form which may pose an unreasonable risk to health and safety or property when transported in commerce;

(3) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Transportation, or his delegate;

(4) "serious harm" means death, serious illness, or severe personal injury;

(5) "State" means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, or Guam;

(6) "transports" or "transportation" means any movement of property by any mode, and any loading, unloading, or storage incidental thereto; and

(7) "United States" means all of the States.

## DESIGNATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

49 USC 1803.

SEC. 104. Upon a finding by the Secretary, in his discretion, that the transportation of a particular quantity and form of material in commerce may pose an unreasonable risk to health and safety or property, he shall designate such quantity and form of material or group or class of such materials as a hazardous material. The materials so designated may include, but are not limited to, explosives, radioactive materials, etiologic agents, flammable liquids or solids, combustible liquids or solids, poisons, oxidizing or corrosive materials, and compressed gases.

## REGULATIONS GOVERNING TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

49 USC 1804.

SEC. 105. (a) GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue, in accordance with the provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code, including an opportunity for informal oral presentation, regulations for the safe transportation in commerce of hazardous materials. Such regulations shall be applicable to any person who transports, or causes to be transported or shipped, a hazardous material, or who manufactures, fabricates, marks, maintains, reconditions, repairs, or tests a package or container which is represented, marked, certified, or sold by such person for use in the transportation in commerce of certain hazardous materials. Such regulations may govern any safety aspect of the transportation of hazardous materials which the Secretary deems necessary or appropriate, including, but not limited to, the packing, repacking, handling, labeling, marking, placarding, and routing (other than with respect to pipelines) of hazardous materials, and the manufacture, fabrication, marking, maintenance, reconditioning, repairing, or testing of a package or container which is represented, marked, certified, or sold by such person for use in the transportation of certain hazardous materials.

(b) COOPERATION.—In addition to other applicable requirements, the Secretary shall consult and cooperate with representatives of the Interstate Commerce Commission and shall consider any relevant suggestions made by such Commission, before issuing any regulation with respect to the routing of hazardous materials. Such Commission shall, to the extent of its lawful authority, take such action as is necessary or appropriate to implement any such regulation.

(c) REPRESENTATION.—No person shall, by marking or otherwise, represent that a container or package for the transportation of hazardous materials is safe, certified, or in compliance with the requirements of this Act, unless it meets the requirements of all applicable regulations issued under this Act.

## HANDLING OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

49 USC 1805.

SEC. 106. (a) CRITERIA.—The Secretary is authorized to establish criteria for handling hazardous materials. Such criteria may include, but need not be limited to, a minimum number of personnel; a minimum level of training and qualification for such personnel; type and frequency of inspection; equipment to be used for detection, warning, and control of risks posed by such materials; specifications regarding the use of equipment and facilities used in the handling and transportation of such materials; and a system of monitoring safety assurance procedures for the transportation of such materials. The Secretary may revise such criteria as required.

(b) REGISTRATION.—Each person who transports or causes to be transported or shipped in commerce hazardous materials or who manufactures, fabricates, marks, maintains, reconditions, repairs, or tests packages or containers which are represented, marked, certified, or sold by such person for use in the transportation in commerce of certain hazardous materials (designated by the Secretary) may be required by the Secretary to prepare and submit to the Secretary a registration statement not more often than once every 2 years. Such a registration statement shall include, but need not be limited to, such person's name; principal place of business; the location of each activity handling such hazardous materials; a complete list of all such hazardous materials handled; and an averment that such person is in compliance with all applicable criteria established under subsection (a) of this section.

The Secretary shall by regulation prescribe the form of any such statement and the information required to be included. The Secretary shall make any registration statement filed pursuant to this subsection available for inspection by any person, without charge, except that nothing in this sentence shall be deemed to require the release of any information described by subsection (b) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or which is otherwise protected by law from disclosure to the public.

(c) **REQUIREMENT.**—No person required to file a registration statement under subsection (b) of this section may transport or cause to be transported or shipped extremely hazardous materials, or manufacture, fabricate, mark, maintain, recondition, repair, or test packages or containers for use in the transportation of extremely hazardous materials, unless he has on file a registration statement.

#### EXEMPTIONS

49 USC 1806.

**SEC. 107. (a) GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in accordance with procedures prescribed by regulation, is authorized to issue or renew, to any person subject to the requirements of this title, an exemption from the provisions of this title, and from regulations issued under section 105 of this title, if such person transports or causes to be transported or shipped hazardous materials in a manner so as to achieve a level of safety (1) which is equal to or exceeds that level of safety which would be required in the absence of such exemption, or (2) which would be consistent with the public interest and the policy of this title in the event there is no existing level of safety established. The maximum period of an exemption issued or renewed under this section shall not exceed 2 years, but any such exemption may be renewed upon application to the Secretary. Each person applying for such an exemption or renewal shall, upon application, provide a safety analysis as prescribed by the Secretary to justify the grant of such exemption. A notice of an application for issuance or renewal of such exemption shall be published in the Federal Register. The Secretary shall afford access to any such safety analysis and an opportunity for public comment on any such application, except that nothing in this sentence shall be deemed to require the release of any information described by subsection (b) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or which is otherwise protected by law from disclosure to the public.

Publication in  
Federal Register.

Exclusion.

(b) **VESSELS.**—The Secretary shall exclude, in whole or in part, from any applicable provisions and regulations under this title, any vessel which is excepted from the application of section 201 of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act of 1972 by paragraph (2) of such section (46 U.S.C. 391a(2)), or any other vessel regulated under such Act, to the extent of such regulation.

(c) **FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.**—Nothing in this title, or in any regulation issued under this title, shall be construed to prohibit or regulate the transportation by any individual, for personal use, of any firearm (as defined in paragraph (4) of section 232 of title 18, United States Code) or any ammunition therefor, or to prohibit any transportation of firearms or ammunition in commerce.

(d) **LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.**—Except when the Secretary determines that an emergency exists, exemptions or renewals granted pursuant to this section shall be the only means by which a person subject to the requirements of this title may be exempted from or relieved of the obligation to meet any requirements imposed under this title.

TRANSPORTATION OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS ON PASSENGER-CARRYING  
AIRCRAFTRegulations.  
49 USC 1807.

SEC. 108. (a) GENERAL.—Within 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue regulations, in accordance with this section and pursuant to section 105 of this title, with respect to the transportation of radioactive materials on any passenger-carrying aircraft in air commerce, as defined in section 101(4) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1301(4)). Such regulations shall prohibit any transportation of radioactive materials on any such aircraft unless the radioactive materials involved are intended for use in, or incident to, research, or medical diagnosis or treatment, so long as such materials as prepared for and during transportation do not pose an unreasonable hazard to health and safety. The Secretary shall further establish effective procedures for monitoring and enforcing the provisions of such regulations.

(b) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, “radioactive materials” means any materials or combination of materials which spontaneously emit ionizing radiation. The term does not include materials in which (1) the estimated specific activity is not greater than 0.002 microcuries per gram of material; and (2) the radiation is distributed in an essentially uniform manner.

## POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

49 USC 1808.

SEC. 109. (a) GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized, to the extent necessary to carry out his responsibilities under this title, to conduct investigations, make reports, issue subpoenas, conduct hearings, require the production of relevant documents, records, and property, take depositions, and conduct, directly or indirectly, research, development, demonstration, and training activities. The Secretary is further authorized, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, to issue orders directing compliance with this title or regulations issued under this title; the district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction, upon petition by the Attorney General, to enforce such orders by appropriate means.

Notice and  
hearing.

(b) RECORDS.—Each person subject to requirements under this title shall establish and maintain such records, make such reports, and provide such information as the Secretary shall by order or regulation prescribe, and shall submit such reports and shall make such records and information available as the Secretary may request.

(c) INSPECTION.—The Secretary may authorize any officer, employee, or agent to enter upon, inspect, and examine, at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner, the records and properties of persons to the extent such records and properties relate to—

(1) the manufacture, fabrication, marking, maintenance, reconditioning, repair, testing, or distribution of packages or containers for use by any person in the transportation of hazardous materials in commerce; or

(2) the transportation or shipment by any person of hazardous materials in commerce.

Any such officer, employee, or agent shall, upon request, display proper credentials.

(d) FACILITIES AND DUTIES.—The Secretary shall—

(1) establish and maintain facilities and technical staff sufficient to provide, within the Federal government, the capability of evaluating risks connected with the transportation of hazardous materials and materials alleged to be hazardous;

(2) establish and maintain a central reporting system and data center so as to be able to provide the law-enforcement and firefighting personnel of communities, and other interested persons and government officers, with technical and other information and advice for meeting emergencies connected with the transportation of hazardous materials; and

(3) conduct a continuing review of all aspects of the transportation of hazardous materials in order to determine and to be able to recommend appropriate steps to assure the safe transportation of hazardous materials.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare and submit to the President for transmittal to the Congress on or before May 1 of each year a comprehensive report on the transportation of hazardous materials during the preceding calendar year. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to—

(1) a thorough statistical compilation of any accidents and casualties involving the transportation of hazardous materials;

(2) a list and summary of applicable Federal regulations, criteria, orders, and exemptions in effect;

(3) a summary of the basis for any exemptions granted or maintained;

(4) an evaluation of the effectiveness of enforcement activities and the degree of voluntary compliance with applicable regulations;

(5) a summary of outstanding problems confronting the administration of this title, in order of priority; and

(6) such recommendations for additional legislation as are deemed necessary or appropriate.

#### PENALTIES

49 USC 1809.

SEC. 110. (a) CIVIL.—(1) Any person (except an employee who acts without knowledge) who is determined by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, to have knowingly committed an act which is a violation of a provision of this title or of a regulation issued under this title, shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty. Whoever knowingly commits an act which is a violation of any regulation, applicable to any person who transports or causes to be transported or shipped hazardous materials, shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each violation, and if any such violation is a continuing one, each day of violation constitutes a separate offense. Whoever knowingly commits an act which is a violation of any regulation applicable to any person who manufactures, fabricates, marks, maintains, reconditions, repairs, or tests a package or container which is represented, marked, certified, or sold by such person for use in the transportation in commerce of hazardous materials shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each violation. The amount of any such penalty shall be assessed by the Secretary by written notice. In determining the amount of such penalty, the Secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation committed and, with respect to the person found to have committed such violation, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, effect on ability to continue to do business, and such other matters as justice may require.

(2) Such civil penalty may be recovered in an action brought by the Attorney General on behalf of the United States in the appropriate district court of the United States or, prior to referral to the Attorney General, such civil penalty may be compromised by the Secretary.

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mittal to Con-  
gress.  
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The amount of such penalty, when finally determined (or agreed upon in compromise), may be deducted from any sums owed by the United States to the person charged. All penalties collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts.

(b) **CRIMINAL.**—A person is guilty of an offense if he willfully violates a provision of this title or a regulation issued under this title. Upon conviction, such person shall be subject, for each offense, to a fine of not more than \$25,000, imprisonment for a term not to exceed 5 years, or both.

#### SPECIFIC RELIEF

**SEC. 111. (a) GENERAL.**—The Attorney General, at the request of the Secretary, may bring an action in an appropriate district court of the United States for equitable relief to redress a violation by any person of a provision of this title, or an order or regulation issued under this title. Such district courts shall have jurisdiction to determine such actions and may grant such relief as is necessary or appropriate, including mandatory or prohibitive injunctive relief, interim equitable relief, and punitive damages.

49 USC 1810.

(b) **IMMINENT HAZARD.**—If the Secretary has reason to believe that an imminent hazard exists, he may petition an appropriate district court of the United States, or upon his request the Attorney General shall so petition, for an order suspending or restricting the transportation of the hazardous material responsible for such imminent hazard, or for such other order as is necessary to eliminate or ameliorate such imminent hazard. As used in this subsection, an “imminent hazard” exists if there is substantial likelihood that serious harm will occur prior to the completion of an administrative hearing or other formal proceeding initiated to abate the risk of such harm.

“Imminent hazard.”

#### RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS

**SEC. 112. (a) GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any requirement, of a State or political subdivision thereof, which is inconsistent with any requirement set forth in this title, or in a regulation issued under this title, is preempted.

49 USC 1811.

(b) **STATE LAWS.**—Any requirement, of a State or political subdivision thereof, which is not consistent with any requirement set forth in this title, or in a regulation issued under this title, is not preempted if, upon the application of an appropriate State agency, the Secretary determines, in accordance with procedures to be prescribed by regulation, that such requirement (1) affords an equal or greater level of protection to the public than is afforded by the requirements of this title or of regulations issued under this title and (2) does not unreasonably burden commerce. Such requirement shall not be preempted to the extent specified in such determination by the Secretary for so long as such State or political subdivision thereof continues to administer and enforce effectively such requirement.

(c) **OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.**—The provisions of this title shall not apply to pipelines which are subject to regulation under the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) or to pipelines which are subject to regulation under chapter 39 of title 18, United States Code.

18 USC 831.

#### CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

**SEC. 113. (a)** Section 4472 of title 52 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended (46 U.S.C. 170) is amended—

(1) by inserting, in the first sentence of paragraph (14) thereof, "criminal" before the word "penalty" and "or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both" before the phrase "for each violation"; and

Penalty.

(2) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph: "(17) (A) Any person (except an employee who acts without knowledge) who is determined by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, to have knowingly committed an act which is a violation of any provision of this section, or of any regulation issued under this section, shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each day of each violation. The amount of such civil penalty shall be assessed by the Secretary by written notice. In determining the amount of such penalty, the Secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation committed and, with respect to the person found to have committed such violation, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, effect on ability to continue to do business, and such other matters as justice may require.

"(B) Such civil penalty may be recovered in an action brought by the Attorney General on behalf of the United States, in the appropriate district court of the United States or, prior to referral to the Attorney General, such civil penalty may be compromised by the Secretary. The amount of such penalty, when finally determined (or agreed upon in compromise), may be deducted from any sums owed by the United States to the person charged. All penalties collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts."

(b) Section 901(a) (1) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (49 U.S.C. 1471(a) (1)) is amended—

(1) by inserting immediately before the period at the end of the first sentence thereof and inserting in lieu thereof: "except that the amount of such civil penalty shall not exceed \$10,000 for each such violation which relates to the transportation of hazardous materials."; and

(2) by deleting in the second sentence thereof " : Provided, That this" and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "The amount of any such civil penalty which relates to the transportation of hazardous materials shall be assessed by the Secretary, or his delegate, upon written notice upon a finding of violation by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing. In determining the amount of such penalty, the Secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation committed and, with respect to the person found to have committed such violation, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, effect on ability to continue to do business, and such other matters as justice may require. This".

(c) Section 902(h) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1472(h)) is amended to read as follows:

#### "HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

"(h) (1) In carrying out his responsibilities under this Act, the Secretary of Transportation may exercise the authority vested in him by section 105 of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act to provide by regulation for the safe transportation of hazardous materials by air.

Ante, p. 2157.

Penalty.

"(2) A person is guilty of an offense if he willfully delivers or causes to be delivered to an air carrier or to the operator of a civil aircraft for transportation in air commerce, or if he recklessly causes the transportation in air commerce of, any shipment, baggage, or other

property which contains a hazardous material, in violation of any rule, regulation, or requirement with respect to the transportation of hazardous materials issued by the Secretary of Transportation under this Act. Upon conviction, such person shall be subject, for each offense, to a fine of not more than \$25,000, imprisonment for a term not to exceed 5 years, or both.

“(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit or regulate the transportation by any individual, for personal use, of any firearm (as defined in paragraph (4) of section 232 of title 18, United States Code) or any ammunition therefor.”

(d) Section 6(c)(1) of the Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1655(c)(1)) is amended by inserting in the first sentence thereof after “aviation safety” and before “as set forth in” the following: (other than those relating to the transportation, packaging, marking, or description of hazardous materials)”.

(e)(1) Section 6(f)(3)(A) of the Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1655(f)(3)(A)) is amended by striking out the period at the end thereof and by inserting in lieu thereof “(other than subsection (e)(4)).”.

(2) Section 6(f)(3)(B) of the Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1655(f)(3)(B)) is amended by striking out the period at the end thereof and by inserting in lieu thereof “(other than subsection (e)(4)).”.

(f) Subsection (6) of section 4472 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (46 U.S.C. 170(6)), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (a) thereof, by striking out “inflammable” each place it appears and inserting in lieu thereof at each such place “flammable”; by inserting before “liquids” the following: “or combustible”; and by deleting the colon and the proviso in its entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof a period and the following two new sentences: “The provisions of this subsection shall apply to the transportation, carriage, conveyance, storage, stowing, or use on board any passenger vessel of any barrel, drum, or other package containing any flammable or combustible liquid which has a lower flash point than that which is defined as safe pursuant to regulations establishing the defining flash-point criteria for flammable and combustible liquids. Such regulations shall be prescribed, and revised as necessary, by the Secretary of Transportation.”

(2) in paragraph (b) thereof, by striking out in clause (iv) thereof “inflammable liquids” and inserting in lieu thereof “flammable or combustible liquids”.

(g) The Hazardous Materials Transportation Control Act of 1970 (Pub. L. 91-458, title III; 49 U.S.C. 1761-1762) is repealed.

Repeal.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 114. (a) Except as provided in this section, the provisions of this title shall take effect on the date of enactment.

(b)(1) Except as provided in section 108 of this title or paragraph (2) of this subsection, any order, determination, rule, regulation, permit, contract, certificate, license, or privilege issued, granted, or otherwise authorized or allowed, prior to the date of enactment of this title, pursuant to any provision of law amended or repealed by this title, shall continue in effect according to its terms or until repealed, terminated, withdrawn, amended, or modified by the Secretary or a court of competent jurisdiction.

49 USC 1801  
note.



(2) The Secretary shall take all steps necessary to bring orders, determinations, rules, and regulations into conformity with the purposes and provisions of this title as soon as practicable, but in any event no permits, contracts, certificates, licenses, or privileges granted prior to the date of enactment of this title, or renewed or extended thereafter, shall be of any effect more than 2 years after the date of enactment of this title, unless there is full compliance with the purposes and provisions of this Act and regulations thereunder.

(c) Proceedings pending upon the date of enactment of this title shall not be affected by the provisions of this title and shall be completed as if this title had not been enacted, unless the Secretary makes a determination that the public health and safety otherwise require.

#### AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS

49 USC 1812.

SEC. 115. There is authorized to be appropriated for the purposes of this title, not to exceed \$7,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975.

Rail Safety  
Improvement Act  
of 1974.

### TITLE II—RAIL SAFETY

#### SHORT TITLE

45 USC 440  
note.

SEC. 201. This title may be cited as the "Rail Safety Improvement Act of 1974".

#### DECLARATION OF POLICY

45 USC 440  
note.  
45 USC 431  
note.

SEC. 202. The Congress finds that more effective realization of the purposes of the Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970 requires that Act to be amended to mandate comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the rail safety program, to increase the amount and percentage of available resources for inspection, investigation, and enforcement, and to increase the enforcement powers of the Secretary of Transportation.

#### COMPREHENSIVE RAILROAD SAFETY REPORT

SEC. 203. Section 211 of the Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970 (45 U.S.C. 440) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"(c) SPECIAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare and submit to the President and the Congress, not later than March 17, 1976, a comprehensive railroad safety report. Such report shall—

"(1) contain a description of the areas of railroad safety with respect to which Federal safety standards issued under this Act are in effect (as of June 30, 1975);

"(2) identify any area of railroad safety with respect to which Federal safety standards have been proposed but have not been issued under this Act (as of June 30, 1975);

"(3) identify any area of railroad safety with respect to which Federal safety standards have not been issued under this Act (as of June 30, 1975);

"(4) identify alternative and more cost-effective methods for inspection and enforcement of Federal safety standards, including mechanical and electronic inspection, and contain an evaluation of problems involved in implementing such alternatives, with specific attention to the need for cooperation with the railroad industry;

"(5) identify the areas of railroad safety listed in accordance with paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection which involve, or which may involve, State participation under section 206 of this Act;

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45 USC 435.

“(6) contain a description of the railroad safety program which is in effect or planned in each State (as of June 30, 1975), including—

“(A) State program development;

“(B) State plans to participate in program areas listed in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection, which are not covered by a State certification or agreement;

“(C) State interest in participating in each program area listed in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, following issuance of the applicable safety standards;

“(D) annual projections of each State agency's needs for personnel, equipment, and activities reasonably required to carry out its State program during each fiscal year from 1976 through 1980 together with estimates of the annual costs thereof separately stated as to projections under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph;

“(E) the sources from which the State expects to draw the funds to finance such programs; and

“(F) the amount of State funds and of Federal financial assistance needed during each such fiscal year, by category;

“(7) contain a detailed analysis of (A) the number of safety inspectors needed (by industry and Government respectively) to maintain an adequate and reasonable railroad safety program and record; (B) the minimum training and other qualifications needed for each such inspector; (C) the present and projected availability of such personnel in comparison to the need therefor; (D) the salary levels of such personnel in relation to salary levels for comparable positions in industry, State governments, and the Federal Government;

“(8) evaluate alternative methods of allotting Federal funds among the States applying for Federal financial assistance, including recommendations, if needed, for a formula for such apportionment;

“(9) contain a discussion of other problems affecting cooperation among the States that relate to effective participation of State agencies in the nationwide railroad safety program; and

“(10) contain recommendations for any additional Federal and State legislation needed to further realization of the objectives of this Act.

Such report shall be prepared by the Secretary, directly or indirectly, after research, examination, study, and consultation with the national associations representing railroad employee unions, railroad management, cooperating State agencies, the national organization of State commissions, universities, and other persons having special expertise or experience with respect to railroad safety. Such report shall include, in an appendix, a statement of the views of the national associations representing railroad employee unions, of the carriers, and of the national organization of State commissions with respect to the content of such report in its final form.”

#### ACCIDENT REPORTS

SEC. 204. (a) Section 209(b) of the Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970 (45 U.S.C. 438(b)) is amended by inserting after “for violation thereof” and before “in such amount” the following: “or for violation of section 2 of the Act of May 6, 1910 (45 U.S.C. 39)”.

(b) Section 2 of the Act of May 6, 1910 (45 U.S.C. 39) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: "In lieu of the foregoing, any such carrier may be required to pay a civil penalty pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of section 209 of the Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970 (45 U.S.C. 438(b)).".

#### AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 205. Section 212 of the Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970 (45 U.S.C. 441) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act not to exceed \$35,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975.

"(b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c), amounts appropriated under subsection (a) of this section shall be available for expenditure as follows:

"(1) Not to exceed \$18,000,000 for the Office of Safety, including salaries and expenses for up to 350 safety inspectors and up to 80 clerical personnel.

45 USC 435.

"(2) Not to exceed \$3,500,000 to carry out the provisions of section 206(d) of this Act.

"(3) Not to exceed \$3,500,000 for the Federal Railroad Administration, for salaries and expenses not otherwise provided for.

"(4) Not to exceed \$10,000,000 for conducting research and development activities under this Act.

"(c) The aggregate of amounts obligated and expended in fiscal year 1975 for conducting research and development activities under this Act shall not exceed the aggregate of amounts expended in such fiscal year for the investigation and enforcement of railroad safety rules, regulations, orders, and standards prescribed or in effect under this Act."

#### ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 206. Section 208(a) of the Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970 (45 U.S.C. 437(a)) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: "The Secretary is further authorized to issue orders directing compliance with this Act or with any railroad safety rule, regulation, order, or standard issued under this Act; the district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction, upon petition by the Attorney General, to enforce such orders by appropriate means."

### TITLE III—INDEPENDENT SAFETY BOARD

Independent  
Safety Board Act  
of 1974.

#### SHORT TITLE

SEC. 301. This title may be cited as the "Independent Safety Board Act of 1974".

49 USC 1901  
note.

#### FINDINGS

SEC. 302. The Congress finds and declares:

49 USC 1901.

(1) The National Transportation Safety Board was established by statute in 1966 (Public Law 89-670; 80 Stat. 935) as an independent Government agency, located within the Department of Transportation, to promote transportation safety by conducting independent accident investigations and by formulating safety improvement recommendations.

49 USC 1654.

(2) Proper conduct of the responsibilities assigned to this Board requires vigorous investigation of accidents involving transportation modes regulated by other agencies of Government; demands

continual review, appraisal, and assessment of the operating practices and regulations of all such agencies; and calls for the making of conclusions and recommendations that may be critical of or adverse to any such agency or its officials. No Federal agency can properly perform such functions unless it is totally separate and independent from any other department, bureau, commission, or agency of the United States.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

SEC. 303. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The National Transportation Safety Board (hereafter in this title referred to as the "Board"), previously established within the Department of Transportation, shall be an independent agency of the United States, in accordance with this section, on and after April 1, 1975.

49 USC 1902.

(b) ORGANIZATION.—(1) The Board shall consist of five members, including a Chairman. Members of the Board shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. No more than three members of the Board shall be of the same political party. At any given time, no less than two members of the Board shall be individuals who have been appointed in the field of accident reconstruction, safety engineering, or transportation safety.

Membership.

(2) The terms of office of members of the Board shall be 5 years, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring on the Board prior to the expiration of the term of office for which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of that term. Upon the expiration of his term of office, a member shall continue to serve until his successor is appointed and shall have qualified. Individuals serving as members of the National Transportation Safety Board on the date of enactment of this title shall continue to serve as members of the Board until the expiration of their then current term of office. Any member of the Board may be removed by the President for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.

Term.

(3) On or before January 1, 1976 (and thereafter as required), the President shall—

(A) designate, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, an individual to serve as the Chairman of the Board (hereafter in this title referred to as the "Chairman"); and

(B) an individual to serve as Vice Chairman.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman each shall serve for a term of 2 years. The Chairman shall be the chief executive officer of the Board and shall exercise the executive and administrative functions of the Board with respect to the appointment and supervision of personnel employed by the Board; the distribution of business among such personnel and among any administrative units of the Board; and the use and expenditure of funds. The Vice Chairman shall act as Chairman in the event of the absence or incapacity of the Chairman or in case of a vacancy in the office of Chairman. The Chairman or Acting Chairman shall be governed by the general policies established by the Board, including any decisions, findings, determinations, rules, regulations, and formal resolutions.

(4) Three members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any function of the Board.

(5) The Board shall establish and maintain distinct and appropriately staffed bureaus, divisions, or offices to investigate and report on accidents involving each of the following modes of transportation:

(A) aviation; (B) highway and motor vehicle; (C) railroad and tracked vehicle; and (D) pipeline. The Board shall, in addition, establish and maintain any other such office as is needed, including an office to investigate and report on the safe transportation of hazardous materials.

(c) GENERAL.—(1) The General Services Administration shall furnish the Board with such offices, equipment, supplies, and services as it is authorized to furnish to any other agency or instrumentality of the United States.

(2) The Board shall have a seal which shall be judicially recognized.

(3) Subject to the civil service and classification laws, the Board is authorized to select, appoint, employ, and fix the compensation of such officers and employees, including investigators, attorneys, and administrative law judges, as shall be necessary to carry out its powers and duties under this title.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

49 USC 1903.

SEC. 304. (a) DUTIES OF BOARD.—The Board shall—

(1) investigate or cause to be investigated (in such detail as it shall prescribe), and determine the facts, conditions, and circumstances and the cause or probable cause or causes of any—

49 USC 1655.

(A) aircraft accident which is within the scope of the functions, powers, and duties transferred from the Civil Aeronautics Board under section 6(d) of the Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 4655(d)) pursuant to title VII of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1441);

(B) highway accident, including any railroad grade crossing accident, that it selects in cooperation with the States;

(C) railroad accident in which there is a fatality, substantial property damage, or which involves a passenger train;

(D) pipeline accident in which there is a fatality or substantial property damage;

(E) major marine casualty, except one involving only public vessels, occurring on the navigable waters or territorial seas of the United States, or involving a vessel of the United States, in accordance with regulations to be prescribed jointly by the Board and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to eliminate or diminish any responsibility under any other Federal statute of the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating: *Provided*, That any marine accident involving a public vessel and any other vessel shall be investigated and the facts, conditions, and circumstances, and the cause or probable cause determined and made available to the public by either the Board or the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating; and

(F) other accident which occurs in connection with the transportation of people or property which, in the judgment of the Board, is catastrophic, involves problems of a recurring character, or would otherwise carry out the policy of this title.

Report.

The Board may request the Secretary of Transportation (hereafter in this title referred to as the "Secretary") to make investigations with regard to such accidents and to report to the

Board the facts, conditions, and circumstances thereof (except in accidents where misfeasance or nonfeasance by the Federal Government is alleged), and the Secretary or his designees are authorized to make such investigations. Thereafter, the Board, utilizing such reports, shall make its determination of cause or probable cause under this paragraph;

(2) report in writing on the facts, conditions, and circumstances of each accident investigated pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection and cause such reports to be made available to the public at reasonable cost and to cause notice of the issuance and availability of such reports to be published in the Federal Register;

Report; publication in Federal Register.

(3) issue periodic reports to the Congress, Federal, State, and local agencies concerned with transportation safety, and other interested persons recommending and advocating meaningful responses to reduce the likelihood of recurrence of transportation accidents similar to those investigated by the Board and proposing corrective steps to make the transportation of persons as safe and free from risk of injury as is possible, including steps to minimize human injuries from transportation accidents;

Reports to Congress, Federal, State, and local agencies.

(4) initiate and conduct special studies and special investigations on matters pertaining to safety in transportation including human injury avoidance;

(5) assess and reassess techniques and methods of accident investigation and prepare and publish from time to time recommended procedures for accident investigations;

(6) establish by regulation requirements binding on persons reporting accidents subject to the Board's investigatory jurisdiction under this subsection;

(7) evaluate, assess the effectiveness, and publish the findings of the Board with respect to the transportation safety consciousness and efficacy in preventing accidents of other Government agencies;

(8) evaluate the adequacy of safeguards and procedures concerning the transportation of hazardous materials and the performance of other Government agencies charged with assuring the safe transportation of such materials; and

(9) review on appeal (A) the suspension, amendment, modification, revocation, or denial of any operating certificate or license issued by the Secretary of Transportation under sections 602, 609, or 611(c) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (49 U.S.C. 1422, 1429, or 1431(c)); and (B) the decisions of the Commandant of the Coast Guard, on appeals from the orders of any administrative law judge revoking, suspending, or denying a license, certificate, document, or register in proceedings under section 4450 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (46 U.S.C. 239); the Act of July 15, 1954 (46 U.S.C. 239 (a) and (b)); or section 4 of the Great Lakes Pilotage Act (46 U.S.C. 216(b)).

46 USC 239a,  
239b,  
46 USC 216b.

(b) POWERS OF BOARD.—(1) The Board, or upon the authority of the Board, any member thereof, any administrative law judge employed by or assigned to the Board, or any officer or employee duly designated by the Chairman, may, for the purpose of carrying out this title, hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, administer such oaths, and require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such evidence as the Board or such officer or employee deems advisable. Subpoenas shall be issued under the signature of the Chairman, or his delegate, and may

be served by any person designated by the Chairman. Witnesses summoned to appear before the Board shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid witnesses in the courts of the United States. Such attendance of witnesses and production of evidence may be required from any place in the United States to any designated place of such hearing in the United States.

Inspections.

(2) Any employee of the Board, upon presenting appropriate credentials and a written notice of inspection authority, is authorized to enter any property wherein a transportation accident has occurred or wreckage from any such accident is located and do all things therein necessary for a proper investigation. The employee may inspect, at reasonable times, records, files, papers, processes, controls, and facilities relevant to the investigation of such accident. Each inspection shall be commenced and completed with reasonable promptness and the results of such inspection made available.

(3) In case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena, an order, or an inspection notice of the Board, or of any duly designated employee thereof, by any person who resides, is found, or transacts business within the jurisdiction of any district court of the United States, such district court shall, upon the request of the Board, have jurisdiction to issue to such person an order requiring such person to comply forthwith. Failure to obey such an order is punishable by such court as a contempt of court.

Contract authority.

(4) The Board is authorized to enter into, without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (41 U.S.C. 5), such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as may be necessary in the conduct of the functions and the duties of the Board under this title, with any government entity or any person.

Autopsy report.

(5) The Board is authorized to obtain, and shall be furnished, with or without reimbursement, a copy of the report of the autopsy performed by State or local officials on any person who dies as a result of having been involved in a transportation accident within the jurisdiction of the Board and, if necessary, the Board may order the autopsy or seek other tests of such persons as may be necessary to the investigation of the accident: *Provided*, That to the extent consistent with the need of the accident investigation, provisions of local law protecting religious beliefs with respect to autopsies shall be observed.

(6) The Board is authorized to (A) use, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, when appropriate, available services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of the Department of Transportation and of other civilian or military agencies and instrumentalities of the Federal Government; (B) confer with employees and use available services, records, and facilities of State, municipal, or local governments and agencies; (C) employ experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; (D) appoint one or more advisory committees composed of qualified private citizens or officials of Federal, State, or local governments as it deems necessary or appropriate, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I); (E) accept voluntary and uncompensated services notwithstanding any other provision of law; (F) accept gifts or donations of money or property (real, personal, mixed, tangible, or intangible); and (G) enter into contracts with public or private nonprofit entities for the conduct of studies related to any of its functions.

Budget estimates, transmittal to Congress.

(7) Whenever the Board submits or transmits any budget estimate, budget request, supplemental budget estimate, or other budget information, legislative recommendation, prepared testimony for congressional hearings, or comment on legislation to the President or to the Office of Management and Budget, it shall concurrently transmit a copy thereof to the Congress. No officer or agency of the United States

shall have any authority to require the Board to submit its budget requests or estimates, legislative recommendations, prepared testimony for congressional hearings, or comments on legislation to any officer or agency of the United States for approval, comments, or review, prior to the submission of such recommendations, testimony, or comments to the Congress.

(8) The Board is empowered to designate representatives to serve or assist on such committees as the Chairman determines to be necessary or appropriate to maintain effective liaison with other Federal agencies, and with State and local government agencies, and with independent standard-setting bodies carrying out programs and activities related to transportation safety.

(9) The Board, or an employee of the Board duly designated by the Chairman, may conduct an inquiry to secure data with respect to any matter pertinent to transportation safety, upon publication of notice of such inquiry in the Federal Register; and may require, by special or general orders, Federal, State, and local government agencies and persons engaged in the transportation of people or property in commerce to submit written reports and answers to such requests and questions as are propounded with respect to any matter pertinent to any function of the Board. Such reports and answers shall be submitted to the Board or to such employee within such reasonable period of time and in such form as the Board may determine. Copies thereof shall be made available for inspection by the public.

Publication in  
Federal Register.

(10) Establish such rules and regulations as may be necessary to the exercise of its functions.

Rules and regu-  
lations.

(c) USE OF REPORTS AS EVIDENCE.—No part of any report of the Board, relating to any accident or the investigation thereof, shall be admitted as evidence or used in any suit or action for damages growing out of any matter mentioned in such report or reports.

(d) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Any order, affirmative or negative, issued by the Board under this title shall be subject to review by the appropriate court of appeals of the United States or the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, upon petition filed within 60 days after the entry of such order, by any person disclosing a substantial interest in such order. Such review shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code.

5 USC 701.

#### ANNUAL REPORT

SEC. 305. The Board shall report to the Congress on July 1 of each year. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to—

49 USC 1904.

(1) a statistical and analytical summary of the transportation accident investigations conducted and reviewed by the Board during the preceding calendar year;

(2) a survey and summary, in such detail as the Board deems advisable, of the recommendations made by the Board to reduce the likelihood of recurrence of such accidents together with the observed response to each such recommendation;

(3) an appraisal in detail of the accident investigation and accident prevention activities of other government agencies charged by Federal or State law with responsibility in this field; and

(4) a biennial appraisal and evaluation and review, and recommendations for legislative and administrative action and change, with respect to transportation safety.



## PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

49 USC 1905.

SEC. 306. (a) GENERAL.—Copies of any communication, document, investigation, or other report, or information received or sent by the Board, or any member or employee of the Board, shall be made available to the public upon identifiable request, and at reasonable cost, unless such information may not be publicly released pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to require the release of any information described by subsection (b) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or which is otherwise protected by law from disclosure to the public.

Information disclosure, prohibition.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The Board shall not disclose information obtained under this title which concerns or relates to a trade secret referred to in section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, except that such information may be disclosed in a manner designed to preserve confidentiality—

(1) upon request, to other Federal Government departments and agencies for official use;

(2) upon request, to any committee of Congress having jurisdiction over the subject matter to which the information relates;

(3) in any judicial proceeding under a court order formulated to preserve the confidentiality of such information without impairing the proceedings; and

(4) to the public in order to protect health and safety, after notice to any interested person to whom the information pertains and an opportunity for such person to comment in writing, or orally in closed session, on such proposed disclosure (if the delay resulting from such notice and opportunity for comment would not be detrimental to health and safety).

## RESPONSE TO BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

49 USC 1906.

SEC. 307. Whenever the Board submits a recommendation regarding transportation safety to the Secretary, he shall respond to each such recommendation formally and in writing not later than 90 days after receipt thereof. The response to the Board by the Secretary shall indicate his intention to—

(1) initiate and conduct procedures for adopting such recommendation in full, pursuant to a proposed timetable, a copy of which shall be included;

(2) initiate and conduct procedures for adopting such recommendation in part, pursuant to a proposed timetable, a copy of which shall be included. Such response shall set forth in detail the reasons for the refusal to proceed as to the remainder of such recommendation; or

(3) refuse to initiate or conduct procedures for adopting such recommendation. Such response shall set forth in detail the reasons for such refusal.

Publication in Federal Register.

The Board shall cause notice of the issuance of each such recommendation and of each receipt of a response thereto to be published in the Federal Register, and shall make copies thereof available to the public at reasonable cost.

## CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

SEC. 308. The Department of Transportation Act is amended—

(1) by deleting section 5 (49 U.S.C. 1654);

(2) by amending section 4(c) thereof (49 U.S.C. 1653(c)) by deleting “or the National Transportation Safety Board” in the first sentence thereof; and by deleting in the second sentence thereof “, the Administrators, or the National Transportation Safety Board.” and by inserting in lieu thereof “or the Administrators.”; and

(3) by amending section 4(d) thereof (49 U.S.C. 1653(d)) by deleting “, the Administrators, and the National Transportation Safety Board” and by inserting in lieu thereof “and the Administrators”.

## AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 309. There are authorized to be appropriated for the purposes of this Act not to exceed \$12,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975; and \$12,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976, such sums to remain available until expended.

49 USC 1907.

Approved January 3, 1975.

Public Law 93-634

## AN ACT

Designating San Angelo Dam and Reservoir on the North Concho River as the “O. C. Fisher Dam and Lake”.

January 3, 1974  
[H. R. 15322]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the San Angelo Dam and Reservoir, North Concho River, Texas, authorized by the Flood Control Act approved August 18, 1941, shall hereafter be known as the O. C. Fisher Dam and Lake, and any law, regulation, document, or record of the United States in which such project is designated or referred to shall be held to refer to such project under and by the name of “O. C. Fisher Dam and Lake”.*

San Angelo Dam  
and Reservoir,  
North Concho  
River, Tex.  
Name change.  
55 Stat. 638.

Approved January 3, 1975.

Public Law 93-635

## AN ACT

To make technical amendments to the Act of September 3, 1974, relating to salary increases for District of Columbia police, firemen, and teachers, and to the District of Columbia Real Property Tax Revision Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

January 3, 1975  
[H. R. 16925]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That effective on the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after July 1, 1974, the salary schedule in section 101(a) of the District of Columbia Police and Firemen’s Salary Act of 1958 (D.C. Code, sec. 4-823(a)) is amended by striking out “16,510” in service step 2 of class 4 of such schedule and inserting in lieu thereof “16,540”.*

D.C.  
Police, firemen  
and teachers,  
salary increases;  
real property  
taxes.