

2026 -- H 7608

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LC005020
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- OPERATION OF RAILROADS
GENERALLY

Introduced By: Representative Matthew S. Dawson

Date Introduced: February 11, 2026

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 39-7 of the General Laws entitled "Operation of Railroads
2 Generally" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **39-7-13. Minimum crews required.**

4 (a) No train or light engine used in connection with the movement of freight may be
5 operated unless it has a crew consisting of at least two (2) persons. For the purposes of this section,
6 the phrase "train or light engine used in connection with the movement of freight" shall not include
7 hostler service or utility employees.

8 (b) Any company, individual, or business entity that willfully violates this section may be
9 subject to a fine as follows:

10 (1) Not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), nor more than one thousand dollars
11 (\$1,000), for a first offense;

12 (2) Not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), nor more than five thousand dollars
13 (\$5,000), for a second offense committed within three (3) years; and

14 (3) Not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), nor more than ten thousand dollars
15 (\$10,000), for a third offense and for subsequent offenses committed within a period of three (3)
16 years.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- OPERATION OF RAILROADS
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1 This act would provide that no train or light engine used in connection with the movement
2 of freight be operated unless it had a crew consisting of at least two (2) persons. This act would
3 include the imposition of fines upon a company, individual or business entity for violation of the
4 act.

5 This act would take effect on October 1, 2026.

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