

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1501

To strengthen Federal law with respect to the prohibitions against and penalties for acts which sabotage or otherwise threaten the safety of rail transportation and mass transit.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 1997

Ms. MOLINARI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To strengthen Federal law with respect to the prohibitions against and penalties for acts which sabotage or otherwise threaten the safety of rail transportation and mass transit.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Railroad and Transit  
5       Sabotage Prevention Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTERFERENCE WITH RAILROAD SIGNAL SYSTEMS.**

2 (a) PROHIBITION.—(1) Chapter 205 of title 49,  
3 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
4 following new section:

5 **“§ 20506. Interference with signal systems**

6 “It shall be unlawful for a person—

7 “(1) with intent to interfere with railroad trans-  
8 portation in the United States, to cause to be dis-  
9 played a signal or light at a place for in a manner  
10 likely to be mistaken for a true light or signal used  
11 in railroad transportation; or

12 “(2) to knowingly interfere with the operation  
13 of a true light or signal used in railroad transpor-  
14 tation.”.

15 (2) The table of sections of chapter 205 of title 49,  
16 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
17 following item:

“20506. Interference with signal systems.”.

18 (b) PENALTIES.—(1) Subchapter II of chapter 213  
19 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at  
20 the end the following new section:

21 **“§ 21312. Penalties for interference with signal sys-**  
22 **tems**

23 “The person who violates 20506 shall be fined under  
24 title 18, imprisoned for not more than 20 years, or both.”.

1       (2) The table of sections of subchapter II of chapter  
 2 213 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding  
 3 at the end the following item:

“21312. Penalties for interference with signal systems.”.

4 **SEC. 3. RAILROAD AND TRANSIT SABOTAGE.**

5       Section 1992 of title 18, United States Code, is  
 6 amended—

7           (1) by inserting “or any mass transit oper-  
 8 ation” after “commerce by any railroad” in the first  
 9 paragraph;

10          (2) by inserting “or any mass transit oper-  
 11 ation” after “interstate or foreign commerce” both  
 12 places it appears in the second paragraph; and

13          (3) by striking “fined under this title” and all  
 14 that follows through “shall be subject also” and in-  
 15 serting in lieu thereof “subject”.

16 **SEC. 4. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION SABO-**  
 17 **TAGE.**

18       (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 51 of title 49, United  
 19 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the follow-  
 20 ing new section:

21 **“§ 5128. Transportation sabotage**

22       “A person shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned  
 23 for not more than 20 years, or both, if the person willfully  
 24 causes to be released a hazardous material while such ma-  
 25 terial is in transportation. If the release of the hazardous

1 material has resulted in the death of any person, whoever  
 2 is convicted of a violation under this section shall also be  
 3 subject to the death penalty or to imprisonment for life,  
 4 if the jury or the court, whichever is responsible for sen-  
 5 tencing, so directs or orders.”.

6 (b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of  
 7 sections of chapter 51 of title 49, United States Code, is  
 8 amended by adding at the end the following item:

“5128. Transportation sabotage.”.

9 **SEC. 5. EXPLOSIVES OR DANGEROUS WEAPONS ABOARD**  
 10 **PASSENGER TRAINS.**

11 (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 241 of title 49, United  
 12 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the follow-  
 13 ing new section:

14 **“§ 24105. Explosives or dangerous weapons**

15 “(a) PROHIBITION.—Whoever brings, carries, or pos-  
 16 sesses any firearm, or any dynamite or other explosive,  
 17 on board any passenger train or in any rail passenger ter-  
 18 minal facility, without previously obtaining the permission  
 19 of the owner of such train or facility, shall be fined under  
 20 title 18, or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.

21 “(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply  
 22 to—

23 “(1) personnel of the armed forces of the  
 24 United States;

1           “(2) officers of the United States, or a State or  
2           political subdivision thereof, while acting in the per-  
3           formance of their duties; and

4           “(3) persons who are specifically authorized by  
5           law to bring, carry, or possess such firearm or explo-  
6           sive.”.

7           (b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of  
8           sections of chapter 241 of title 49, United States Code,  
9           is amended by adding at the end the following item:

          “24105. Explosives or dangerous weapons.”.

