

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4214

To provide for certain cost cutting measures for Amtrak.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 2, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To provide for certain cost cutting measures for Amtrak.

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 “Reforming Amtrak’s
5 Inefficient Lines Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDING.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) according to data from Amtrak’s Monthly
9 Performance Report for October, 2004, the 5 Am-
10 trak trains that have lost the most money (the
11 Southwest Chief, California Zephyr, Empire Builder,

1 Coast Starlight, and Silver Star) have accounted for
2 losses of \$274,500,000 during fiscal year 2004;

3 (2) during the last 35 years, Congressional
4 funding support for Amtrak has amounted to rough-
5 ly \$29,000,000,000;

6 (3) President Clinton signed into law the Am-
7 trak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997, which
8 required Amtrak to operate without Federal sub-
9 sidies after December, 2002; and

10 (4) according to the Department of Transpor-
11 tation's Inspector General, eliminating sleeper cars,
12 dining cars, onboard entertainment, lounge seating,
13 checked bag service, and food and beverage service
14 on Amtrak's long-distance routes could save between
15 \$75,000,000 and \$158,000,000 per year in oper-
16 ating costs and avoid an additional \$79,000,000 in
17 planned annual capital expenditures, which would re-
18 sult in savings of between \$375,000,000 and
19 \$790,000,000 in operating expenditures and
20 \$395,000,000 in avoidable planned capital expendi-
21 tures over 5 years.

22 **SEC. 3. COST CUTTING MEASURES.**

23 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
24 of this Act, Amtrak shall—

1 (1) discontinue service on the Southwest Chief,
2 California Zephyr, Empire Builder, Coast Starlight,
3 and Silver Star routes;

4 (2) discontinue food and beverage service unless
5 the revenues from such service exceed the cost of
6 providing the service, including labor costs associ-
7 ated with providing the service, as required by sec-
8 tion 24305(c)(4) of title 49, United States Code;
9 and

10 (3) eliminate sleeper cars, dining cars, lounge
11 seating, checked baggage service, and onboard enter-
12 tainment.

○