

**House File 591 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 591

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 132)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the midwest interstate passenger rail

2 compact, and including effective date provisions.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 327K.1 **Midwest interstate passenger**  
2 **rail compact.**

3 The midwest interstate passenger rail compact is enacted  
4 into law and entered into with all other states legally joining  
5 in the compact in substantially the following form:

6 1. *Article I — Statement of purpose.* The purposes of this  
7 compact are, through joint or cooperative action:

8 a. To promote development and implementation of improvements  
9 to intercity passenger rail service in the midwest.

10 b. To coordinate interaction among midwestern state elected  
11 officials and their designees on passenger rail issues.

12 c. To promote development and implementation of long-range  
13 plans for high-speed rail passenger service in the midwest and  
14 among other regions of the United States.

15 d. To work with the public and private sectors at the  
16 federal, state, and local levels to ensure coordination among  
17 the various entities having an interest in passenger rail  
18 service and to promote midwestern interests regarding passenger  
19 rail.

20 e. To support efforts of transportation agencies involved  
21 in developing and implementing passenger rail service in the  
22 midwest.

23 2. *Article II — Establishment of commission.* To further the  
24 purposes of the compact, a commission is created to carry out  
25 the duties specified in this compact.

26 3. *Article III — Commission membership.*

27 a. The manner of appointment of commission members, terms of  
28 office consistent with the terms of this compact, provisions  
29 for removal and suspension, and manner of appointment to fill  
30 vacancies shall be determined by each party state pursuant to  
31 its laws, but each commissioner shall be a resident of the  
32 state of appointment. Commission members shall serve without  
33 compensation from the commission.

34 b. (1) The commission shall consist of four resident  
35 members of each state as follows:

1 (a) The governor or the governor's designee who shall  
2 serve during the tenure of office of the governor, or until a  
3 successor is named.

4 (b) One member of the private sector who shall be appointed  
5 by the governor and shall serve during the tenure of office of  
6 the governor, or until a successor is named.

7 (c) Two legislators, one from each legislative chamber, who  
8 shall serve two-year terms, or until successors are appointed,  
9 and who shall be appointed by the appropriate appointing  
10 authority in each legislative chamber.

11 (2) All vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the  
12 laws of the appointing states. A commissioner appointed to  
13 fill a vacancy shall serve until the end of the incomplete  
14 term. Each member state shall have equal voting privileges, as  
15 determined by the commission bylaws.

16 4. *Article IV — Powers and duties of the commission.*

17 a. The duties of the commission are to:

18 (1) Advocate for the funding and authorization necessary to  
19 make passenger rail improvements a reality for the region.

20 (2) Identify and seek to develop ways that states can  
21 form partnerships, including with rail industry and labor, to  
22 implement improved passenger rail service in the region.

23 (3) Seek development of a long-term, interstate plan for  
24 high-speed rail passenger service implementation.

25 (4) Cooperate with other agencies, regions, and entities  
26 to ensure that the midwest is adequately represented and  
27 integrated into national plans for passenger rail development.

28 (5) Adopt bylaws governing the activities and procedures  
29 of the commission and addressing, among other subjects: the  
30 powers and duties of officers; and the voting rights of  
31 commission members, voting procedures, commission business,  
32 and any other purposes necessary to fulfill the duties of the  
33 commission.

34 (6) Expend such funds as required to carry out the powers  
35 and duties of the commission.

1 (7) Report on the activities of the commission to the  
2 legislatures and governors of the member states on an annual  
3 basis.

4 *b.* In addition to its exercise of these duties, the  
5 commission may:

6 (1) Provide multistate advocacy necessary to implement  
7 passenger rail systems or plans, as approved by the commission.

8 (2) Work with local elected officials, economic development  
9 planning organizations, and similar entities to raise the  
10 visibility of passenger rail service benefits and needs.

11 (3) Educate other state officials, federal agencies,  
12 other elected officials, and the public on the advantages  
13 of passenger rail as an integral part of an intermodal  
14 transportation system in the region.

15 (4) Work with federal agency officials and members of  
16 Congress to ensure the funding and authorization necessary  
17 to develop a long-term, interstate plan for high-speed rail  
18 passenger service implementation.

19 (5) Make recommendations to member states.

20 (6) If requested by each state participating in a particular  
21 project and under the terms of a formal agreement approved  
22 by the participating states and the commission, implement or  
23 provide oversight for specific rail projects.

24 (7) Establish an office and hire staff as necessary.

25 (8) Contract for or provide services.

26 (9) Assess dues, in accordance with the terms of this  
27 compact.

28 (10) Conduct research.

29 (11) Establish committees.

30 5. *Article V — Officers.* The commission shall annually  
31 elect from among its members a chair, a vice chair who shall  
32 not be a resident of the state represented by the chair, and  
33 others as approved in the commission bylaws. The officers  
34 shall perform such functions and exercise such powers as are  
35 specified in the commission bylaws.

1     6. *Article VI — Meetings and commission administration.* The  
2 commission shall meet at least once in each calendar year and  
3 at such other times as may be determined by the commission.  
4 Commission business shall be conducted in accordance with the  
5 procedures and voting rights specified in the bylaws.

6     7. *Article VII — Finance.*

7     a. Except as otherwise provided, the moneys necessary to  
8 finance the general operations of the commission in carrying  
9 forth its duties, responsibilities, and powers as stated  
10 in this compact shall be appropriated to the commission by  
11 the compacting states, when authorized by the respective  
12 legislatures, by equal apportionment among the compacting  
13 states. Nothing in this compact shall be construed to commit a  
14 member state to participate in financing a rail project except  
15 as provided by law of a member state.

16     b. The commission may accept, for any of its purposes  
17 and functions, donations, gifts, grants, and appropriations  
18 of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services from  
19 the federal government, from any party state or from any  
20 department, agency, or municipality thereof, or from any  
21 institution, person, firm, or corporation. All expenses  
22 incurred by the commission in executing the duties imposed  
23 upon it by this compact shall be paid by the commission out of  
24 the funds available to it. The commission shall not issue any  
25 debt instrument. The commission shall submit to the officer  
26 designated by the laws of each party state, periodically as  
27 required by the laws of each party state, a budget containing  
28 its actual past and estimated future expenditures.

29     8. *Article VIII — Enactment, effective date, and*  
30 *amendments.* The states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas,  
31 Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio,  
32 South Dakota, and Wisconsin are eligible to join this compact.  
33 Upon approval of the commission, according to its bylaws, other  
34 states may also be declared eligible to join the compact.  
35 As to any eligible party state, this compact shall become

1 effective when its legislature shall have enacted the compact  
2 into law; provided that the compact shall not become initially  
3 effective until enacted into law by any three party states  
4 incorporating the provisions of this compact into the laws of  
5 the states. Amendments to the compact shall become effective  
6 upon their enactment by the legislatures of all compacting  
7 states.

8 9. *Article IX — Withdrawal, default, and termination.*

9 a. Withdrawal from this compact shall be by enactment of a  
10 statute repealing the compact and shall take effect one year  
11 after the effective date of the statute. A withdrawing state  
12 shall be liable for any obligations which it may have incurred  
13 prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

14 b. If any compacting state defaults in the performance  
15 of any of its obligations, assumed or imposed, in accordance  
16 with this compact, all rights, privileges, and benefits  
17 conferred by this compact or agreements under this compact  
18 shall be suspended from the effective date of the default as  
19 fixed by the commission, and the commission shall stipulate  
20 the conditions and maximum time for compliance under which  
21 the defaulting state may resume its regular status. Unless  
22 the default is remedied under the stipulations and within  
23 the time period set forth by the commission, this compact  
24 may be terminated with respect to the defaulting state by  
25 affirmative vote of a majority of the other commission members.  
26 Any such defaulting state may be reinstated, upon vote of  
27 the commission, by performing all acts and obligations as  
28 stipulated by the commission.

29 10. *Article X — Construction and severability.* The  
30 provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any  
31 phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this compact is  
32 declared to be contrary to the constitution of any compacting  
33 state or of the United States, or the applicability thereof  
34 to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held  
35 invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and

1 the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person,  
2 or circumstance shall not be affected by the declaration  
3 or holding. If this compact is held to be contrary to the  
4 constitution of any compacting state, the compact shall remain  
5 in full force and effect as to the remaining states and in  
6 full force and effect as to the state affected as to all  
7 severable matters. This compact shall be liberally construed  
8 to effectuate the purposes of the compact.

9 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
10 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

11

EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

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the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

14 This bill provides that the midwest interstate passenger  
15 rail compact is entered into and enacted into law together  
16 with several other midwestern states if those states join the  
17 compact in substantially the same form.

18 The bill provides that the purposes of the compact are  
19 to promote development and implementation of improvements to  
20 intercity passenger rail service in the midwest, to coordinate  
21 interaction among midwestern state officials on passenger  
22 rail issues, to promote development and implementation of  
23 plans for high-speed rail passenger service in the midwest  
24 and other regions, to work with public and private sectors  
25 at all levels to ensure coordination among entities with an  
26 interest in passenger rail service and to promote midwestern  
27 interests regarding such service, and to support efforts of  
28 transportation agencies involved in developing and implementing  
29 passenger rail service in the midwest.

30 The bill provides that a commission shall be established to  
31 further the purposes of and to carry out the duties specified  
32 in the compact. Each state joining the compact is to be  
33 represented by four commission members: the governor of the  
34 state or the governor's designee, serving during the tenure of  
35 the governor or until a successor is named; a member of the

1 private sector appointed by the governor, serving during the  
2 tenure of the governor or until a successor is named; and two  
3 legislators, one from each legislative chamber, appointed by  
4 the appropriate appointing authority in each chamber, serving  
5 two-year terms or until successors are appointed.

6 The bill provides a list of powers and duties the commission  
7 shall have related to the compact and provides for the  
8 administration and financing of the general operations of the  
9 commission. The bill also includes provisions relating to  
10 withdrawal, default, and termination of the compact.

11 The bill takes effect upon enactment. The compact, having  
12 already been enacted into law and entered into by eight states,  
13 would apply in Iowa effective upon enactment of the bill.

14 Current midwest interstate passenger rail compact member  
15 states include Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota,  
16 Missouri, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio,  
17 and South Dakota are eligible to join.