

*S. 4/8/98 Do Pass*  
*S. 4/14/98 adopted*  
**FILED APR 8 1998**  
*H. 4/15/98 adopted*  
RULES & ADMINISTRATION

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 115  
2 BY DRAKE, MADDOX, IVERSON, GRONSTAL, HORN,  
3 JENSEN, KIBBIE, and FINK  
4 (COMPANION TO LSB 4413HH BY TYRRELL)

5 A Concurrent Resolution urging federal Congressional  
6 support for widows and widowers under the federal  
7 Railroad Retirement Act of 1974.

8 WHEREAS, a Concurrent Resolution has been  
9 introduced in the United States House of  
10 Representatives to encourage the United States  
11 Railroad Retirement Board to modify the guaranteed  
12 minimum benefit for widows and widowers to provide  
13 adequate annuities; and

14 WHEREAS, for years, many in the railroad industry  
15 have argued that annuities paid to widows and widowers  
16 under the federal Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 are  
17 inadequate; and

18 WHEREAS, during the lifetime of a railroad employee  
19 and the employee's spouse, the employee receives a  
20 full annuity and so does the spouse; and

21 WHEREAS, however, after the employee's death, only  
22 a widow's or widower's annuity is payable, which under  
23 current law is no less than that widow or widower  
24 received as a spouse in the month before the  
25 employee's death; and

26 WHEREAS, the widow's or widower's annuity is often  
27 found inadequate and leaves the survivor with less  
28 than the amount of income needed to meet ordinary and  
29 necessary living expenses; and

30 WHEREAS, no outside contributions from taxpayers

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1 are needed, and any changes will be paid for from  
2 within the railroad industry itself, including a full  
3 share by active employees; NOW THEREFORE,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES, CONCURRING, That the General Assembly  
6 urges the United States Congress to support U.S. House  
7 of Representatives Concurrent Resolution 52 that calls  
8 for the Congress of the United States to recognize the  
9 concern of many in the railroad industry that the  
10 spousal annuity under the current system is inadequate  
11 and often leaves the survivor with less than the  
12 amount of income needed to meet ordinary and necessary  
13 living expenses and that a process of dialogue must  
14 take place among all parties of the railroad  
15 community, including rail labor, management, and  
16 retiree organizations, before railroad annuity  
17 legislation can be enacted; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly  
19 supports adoption of the federal Congressional  
20 resolution which urges and exhorts all parties of the  
21 railroad community, including rail labor, management,  
22 and retiree organizations, to find a suitable way to  
23 fund an amendment that would improve the survivor  
24 benefits component to the Railroad Retirement Act of  
25 1974; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
27 Resolution be sent by the Secretary of the Senate to  
28 the President of the United States, the President of  
29 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United  
30 States House of Representatives, all members of the

1 Iowa Congressional delegation, and the members of the  
2 United States Railroad Retirement Board.

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