

MAR 19 2004

Laid Over Under Rule 25

1 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 122
2 BY T. TAYLOR and HUSER
3 (COMPANION TO LSB 6933SS BY McCOY)
4 A Concurrent Resolution urging the Federal Railroad
5 Administration to conduct regulatory proceedings
6 regarding remote control locomotive operations by
7 railroad companies.
8 WHEREAS, one of the primary goals of the Iowa
9 General Assembly is to protect the safety of the
10 citizens of the State of Iowa; and
11 WHEREAS, the Iowa General Assembly is dedicated to
12 the proposition that all Iowans have a right to a safe
13 environment, free from the danger of uncontrolled
14 releases of hazardous materials; and
15 WHEREAS, railroad companies that operate in Iowa
16 transport large amounts of hazardous chemicals, and
17 those chemicals are subject to uncontrolled releases
18 or spillage when railroad cars carrying the chemicals
19 are ruptured during derailments or collisions; and
20 WHEREAS, railroad companies operating in Iowa have
21 implemented remote control locomotive operations in
22 which unmanned locomotives are used to switch railcars
23 containing hazardous materials, or to switch cars on
24 tracks adjacent to cars carrying hazardous materials,
25 occupied locomotives, and passenger trains; and
26 WHEREAS, in the United States, railroad companies
27 have been allowed to implement these remote control
28 operations without Federal Railroad Administration
29 regulations, in spite of a request in November 2000 by
30 the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen

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1 to the Federal Railroad Administration to initiate a
2 rulemaking procedure; and

3 WHEREAS, on November 29, 2000, the Federal Railroad
4 Administration established FRA Docket No. 2000-8422 to
5 engage in rulemaking regarding remote control
6 locomotive operations, and thus far, the Federal
7 Railroad Administration has declined to provide such
8 rulemaking; NOW THEREFORE,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
10 SENATE CONCURRING, That the Iowa General Assembly
11 calls upon the Federal Railroad Administration to
12 reopen FRA Docket No. 2000-8422 so that railroad
13 employees, citizens, and communities that may be
14 affected can register their concerns about the safety
15 of railroad operations; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
17 Resolution be sent to the President of the United
18 States, the Administrator of the Federal Railroad
19 Administration, and the members of Iowa's
20 congressional delegation.

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