

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION 1794
Committee Substitute Favorable 8/23/05**

Sponsors:

Referred to:

August 9, 2005

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ENACTMENT OF THE PASSENGER
2 RAIL INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2005 (SENATE BILL
3 1516) IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

4 Whereas, Senators Lott, Stevens, Lautenberg, Inouye, Hutchison, and Burns
5 have introduced Senate Bill 1516, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act
6 of 2005, in the Congress of the United States; and

7 Whereas, the United States Senate Committee on Science, Commerce, and
8 Transportation has marked up the bill and endorsed its favorable consideration; and

9 Whereas, the legislation would reauthorize and reform Amtrak, provide for
10 enhanced accountability, reduce operating subsidies by forty percent, make
11 infrastructure investments which will improve both freight and passenger services,
12 create a new capital program totaling \$1.4 billion over six years for states to improve
13 and start new conventional and high-speed intercity passenger rail services, facilitate
14 competitive service provisions, set standards for on-time performance, and provide
15 remedies for chronic service delays; and

16 Whereas, the North Carolina House Interim Committee on Expanding Rail
17 Service has reported to the North Carolina General Assembly that expansion of rail
18 services can help promote economic development and mobility for our citizens; and

19 Whereas, Amtrak's national passenger rail system serves 16 cities and towns
20 in North Carolina with six daily trains, two in partnership with North Carolina,
21 providing safe, efficient, and affordable intercity mobility for hundreds of thousands of
22 North Carolinians annually; and

23 Whereas, North Carolina and its cities and towns have partnered, for over a
24 decade, with Amtrak to provide its citizens with higher levels of service, and continues
25 to do so; and

26 Whereas, the North Carolina General Assembly, acting in concert with the
27 Virginia General Assembly and pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 24101, has authorized creation
28 of the Virginia-North Carolina Interstate High Speed Rail Compact to develop
29 high-speed rail transportation in Virginia and North Carolina, advocate for development
30 of a federal funding partner, and provide State funds to support this development; and

1 Whereas, 15 chambers of commerce in six states, including those serving
2 Raleigh, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Charlotte, have created the Southeastern
3 Economic Alliance to promote development of high-speed rail across the Southeastern
4 United States; and

5 Whereas, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has analyzed and
6 recommended extension of passenger service to connect Western North Carolina via
7 Salisbury to Asheville and Southeastern North Carolina via Raleigh, Fayetteville, and
8 Goldsboro to Wilmington; and

9 Whereas, 27 cities, 30 towns and villages, 17 counties, 18 transportation
10 planning organizations and councils of government, 17 chambers of commerce, and 10
11 other State and local organizations have endorsed a resolution supporting creation of a
12 comprehensive passenger rail system to serve the State of North Carolina; and

13 Whereas, the North Carolina Secretary's Rail Advisory Committee, acting
14 through the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, has asked
15 the United States Secretary of Transportation to provide for stability in our nation's
16 intercity passenger rail program and provide for a program of federal, State, and private
17 investment in our freight and passenger railroad system; and

18 Whereas, North Carolina requires a predictable program of federal funding to
19 help implement these improvements to the freight and passenger network; and

20 Whereas, North Carolina has heretofore invested State funds in excess of
21 those required to match a program of federal funds; Now, therefore,

22 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

23 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives of the North Carolina General
24 Assembly hereby endorses the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2005
25 (Senate Bill 1516) and memorializes and encourages the Congress of the United States
26 to enact the legislation.

27 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives of the North Carolina General
28 Assembly encourages the North Carolina delegation to the United States Congress to
29 cosponsor this legislation and work industriously for its enactment.

30 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.