

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 597

By: Pederson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the operation of railroads; defining terms; prohibiting operation of trains exceeding a certain length; creating a civil penalty; providing for certain fine for certain violations; allowing for Transportation Commission to request Attorney General take certain action; directing deposit of certain monies; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 104 of Title 66, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in this act:

1. "Branch line" means a secondary railroad track that branches off from a main line;

2. "Main line" means a Class I railroad as documented in current timetables filed by the Class I railroad with the Federal Railroad Administration under 49 C.F.R., Section 217.7 when the

1 railroad has five million (5,000,000) or more gross tons of railroad  
2 traffic transported annually;

3 3. "Railroad" means any form of non-highway ground  
4 transportation that runs on rails or electromagnetic guideways;

5 4. "Train" means one or more locomotives, coupled with or  
6 without cars, that require an air brake test in accordance with 49  
7 C.F.R., Part 232 or 238; and

8 5. "Siding or passing track" means a sidetrack with switches at  
9 both ends.

10 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 105 of Title 66, unless there is  
12 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. No railroad company operating in this state shall run or  
14 permit to be run any train that exceeds eight thousand five hundred  
15 (8,500) feet in length or exceeds the length of the shortest siding  
16 or passing track on which it travels on any main line or branch  
17 line, or that routinely or repeatedly blocks any intersection for  
18 periods exceeding ten (10) minutes at one time.

19 B. Except as provided in subsection C of this section, if any  
20 railroad company has been determined by the Transportation  
21 Commission as willfully violating subsection A of this section, the  
22 company shall be liable for a civil penalty not less than Five  
23 Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per foot nor more than One Thousand  
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1 Dollars (\$1,000.00) per foot of the length of a train exceeding the  
2 limitation set forth in subsection A of this section.

3 C. Any railroad company that commits a grossly negligent  
4 violation or that has a pattern of repeated violations, which the  
5 Transportation Commission has determined caused an imminent threat  
6 of death or injury to another person or that caused death or injury  
7 to another person, shall be subject to a fine not to exceed Two  
8 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00).

9 D. In determining the amount of a civil penalty under this  
10 section, the Transportation Commission shall consider the:

11 1. Nature, circumstances, extent, and seriousness of the  
12 violation; and

13 2. Degree of culpability, history of violations, ability to  
14 pay, and any effect on the violator's ability to continue to do  
15 business.

16 E. At the request of the Transportation Commission, the  
17 Attorney General may initiate a civil action in any court of  
18 competent jurisdiction to collect any civil penalty imposed pursuant  
19 to this section. A civil action under this section shall be  
20 commenced within three (3) years of the date of the violation or  
21 within three (3) years of the latest violation if a repeated offense  
22 is alleged.

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F. Any civil penalty received under this section shall be deposited in the State Transportation Fund created under Section 1501.1 of Title 69 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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