



Senate Fiscal Agency
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BILL



ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 645 (as reported without amendment)
Sponsor: Senator Tom Casperson
Committee: Transportation

CONTENT

The bill would enact a new law "to promote the safety and security of rail fixed guideway public transportation systems operating within this state". Specifically, the bill would do the following:

- Establish a State safety oversight entity to supervise and regulate covered rail fixed guideway public transportation systems (RFGPTs) operating in the State in compliance with Federal laws.
- Designate the Office of Rail within the Michigan Department of Transportation as the State safety oversight entity.
- Prescribe the powers and duties of the State safety oversight entity, and authorize it to supervise and regulate RFGPTs operating within the State in compliance with all applicable Federal laws and regulations, to the extent necessary to fulfill obligations under Federal law.

"Rail fixed guideway public transportation system" would mean a fixed guideway system, including a fixed guideway system that is in the process of engineering or construction, that uses rail, is operated for the purpose of public transportation, is within the jurisdiction of a state, and is not subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Railroad Administration. The term would include a rapid rail, heavy rail, light rail, monorail, trolley, streetcar, inclined plane, funicular, and automated guideway system. "Covered rail fixed guideway public transportation system" would mean a transit system operating within the State that is subject to the State safety oversight requirements under specific Federal regulations.

Legislative Analyst: Drew Krogulecki

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would not have a direct impact on State or local government; however, failure to enact the bill would jeopardize Michigan's receipt of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funds amounting to \$142.0 million annually. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), enacted in 2012, requires states to certify a State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) to oversee rail fixed guideway transit systems by April 2019, or lose FTA grant money. The bill would identify the Office of Rail within the Department of Transportation as Michigan's SSOA, and ensure that Michigan remained in compliance with MAP-21.

Date Completed: 12-5-17

Fiscal Analyst: Michael Siracuse