

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

No. 23

(House Joint Resolution No. 50)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Railroad Safety - Signal Operation

FOR the purpose of requesting the United States Secretary of Transportation to adopt the necessary safety regulations to require railroad track signal circuits to be activated by Maintenance of Way motorized railroad track equipment.

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland is dedicated to providing safe travel and safe working conditions for those who ride and work on the railroads in this State; and

WHEREAS, Trains operating on a railroad track interrupt the flow of ("shunt") an electrical current in the railroad track thereby activating signal devices which alert railroad personnel of the presence of cars on the track; and

WHEREAS, Motorized railroad track equipment and rail mobile vehicles used by Maintenance of Way forces to maintain the railroad tracks are insulated in a manner that prevents them from shunting the current and activating the railroad signal devices; and

WHEREAS, Railroad personnel may not be adequately alerted when Maintenance of Way motorized railroad track equipment occupies the track; and

WHEREAS, There are no current federal regulations that require Maintenance of Way motorized railroad track equipment and rail mobile vehicles to activate the railroad signals which alert railroad personnel of the presence of cars on the track; and

WHEREAS, The United States Secretary of Transportation has the necessary powers to adopt regulations in the area of safety on the railroad; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State of Maryland requests the United States Secretary of Transportation to adopt the necessary regulations to require Maintenance of Way motorized railroad track equipment and rail mobile vehicles to activate the railroad signals which alert railroad personnel of the presence of cars on the track; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Reference to the Honorable William Donald Schaefer, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the