

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 348

Short Title: Regulation of Railroad Crews. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Crawford and Mayfield (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 25, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT A TRAIN OR LIGHT ENGINE USED IN CONNECTION WITH  
3 THE MOVEMENT OF FREIGHT FROM BEING OPERATED IN THIS STATE UNLESS  
4 IT HAS A CERTAIN NUMBER OF CREW MEMBERS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Article 15 of Chapter 136 of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
7 a new section to read:

8 "**§ 136-199. Train crew staffing.**

9 (a) No railroad train or light engine used in a Class I railroad, as defined by the Federal  
10 Surface Transportation Board, in connection with the movement of freight shall be operated in  
11 the State unless the train has a crew of at least two persons.

12 (b) Any person who willfully violates any requirement of this section shall be guilty of a  
13 Class 1 misdemeanor and assessed a fine as follows:

14 (1) For the first offense, a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00)  
15 nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

16 (2) For a second offense committed within three years of the first offense, a fine  
17 of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than five thousand  
18 dollars (\$5,000).

19 (3) For a third and subsequent offense committed within a three-year period, a  
20 fine of not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) nor more than ten thousand  
21 dollars (\$10,000).

22 (c) This section does not apply to:

23 (1) A person who moves locomotives unattached to railcars within a rail yard.

24 (2) An employee who is temporarily assigned to work with train or yard crews  
25 consistent with 49 C.F.R. § 218.22.

26 (d) As used in this section, "light engine" means a locomotive that has no cars attached."

27 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2022.

