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SENATE BILL NO. 31

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled November 17, 2025

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 7 of Chapter 13 of Title 56 a section numbered 56-425.1, relating to railroad safety; minimum train crew; movement of freight; civil penalties.

Patron—Carroll Foy

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 7 of Chapter 13 of Title 56 a section numbered 56-425.1 as follows:

§ 56-425.1. Minimum train crew; movement of freight; civil penalties.

A. No railroad company shall use or allow the use of any train, locomotive, or light engine in connection with the movement of freight unless such train, locomotive, or light engine has a crew consisting of at least two qualified individuals. No provision of this section shall apply to the use of a train, locomotive, or light engine for hostler or utility service.

B. Any railroad company in violation of the provisions of this section shall, in the discretion of the Commission, be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,000. For a second violation within three years, such railroad company shall, in the discretion of the Commission, be fined not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000. For a third or subsequent violation within three years of the first violation, such railroad company shall, in the discretion of the Commission, be fined not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000. The number of violations within three years shall be measured by the dates on which such violations occur.