

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3551

To require the periodic inspection of certain railroad facilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To require the periodic inspection of certain railroad
facilities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Railway Inspection and
5 Transparency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INSPECTION OF RAILROAD FACILITIES.**

7 (a) REQUIREMENT.—The Federal Railroad Adminis-
8 tration shall require each railroad carrier to arrange for
9 an independent inspection by a professional engineer of—

10 (1) all railroad bridges owned or leased by that
11 railroad carrier at least once every 2 years; and

1 (2) all railroad signals and switches owned or
2 leased by that railroad carrier at least once every 6
3 months.

4 (b) DOCUMENTATION.—Each railroad carrier shall
5 provide to the Federal Railroad Administration docu-
6 mentation of the results of inspections carried out under
7 subsection (a). The Federal Railroad Administration shall
8 make such documentation available to the public.

9 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) INDEPENDENT INSPECTION.—The term
11 “independent inspection” means an inspection con-
12 ducted by a professional engineer that is not em-
13 ployed by the railroad carrier or the Federal Rail-
14 road Administration.

15 (2) PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER.—The term
16 “professional engineer” means an individual who—

17 (A) is currently registered as a professional
18 engineer or structural engineer by a State, the
19 District of Columbia, or a territory, common-
20 wealth, or possession of the United States; and

21 (B) has expertise in railroad operations.

22 (3) RAILROAD CARRIER.—The term “railroad
23 carrier” has the meaning given that term in section
24 20102 of title 49, United States Code.

○