

79TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 413

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 1945

Mr. GOSSETT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Interstate Commerce Act, to provide for the establishment of a uniform classification and uniform scale of class rates for railroad freight, and for other purposes.

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

3 That the Interstate Commerce Act, as amended (54 Stat.
4 905), is hereby amended by adding after section 15A of
5 part I thereof the following new section:

6 "SEC. 15B. (1) It is hereby declared to be in the in-
7 terest of a proper development of the country as a whole
8 that there be established a uniform classification of property
9 and a uniform scale of class rates for application, in the man-
10 ner and to the extent provided in this section, to the trans-

1 portation of property by railroad throughout the United
 2 States, except where departures therefrom may clearly be
 3 justified. All appropriate provisions of part I of this Act
 4 shall be administered and enforced with a view to carrying
 5 out this declaration of policy.

6 “(2) The Commission is hereby authorized and di-
 7 rected to prepare and make public, within nine months of
 8 the effective date of this section, a proposed uniform classi-
 9 fication for the transportation of property by railroad through-
 10 out the United States. Such classification shall include such
 11 descriptions, rules, specifications, and definitions relating to
 12 classification as the Commission shall consider proper.

13 “(3) The Commission is hereby authorized and directed
 14 to prepare and make public, within nine months from the
 15 effective date of this section, a proposed scale of rates for
 16 each class of property as defined in the classification provided
 17 for in the preceding section. Such scale shall be designed
 18 for uniform application throughout the United States to
 19 the transportation of property by railroad, locally, and jointly,
 20 in carload and less-than-carload quantities, other than prop-
 21 erty for which individual commodity rates or exceptions are,
 22 and in the view of the Commission should be, lawfully
 23 applicable in lieu of class rates.

24 “(4) In preparing and making public said proposed
 25 classification and proposed scale of class rates, the Com-

1 mission shall use such procedures and methods as it con-
 2 siders will conduce to the proper and expeditious dispatch of
 3 the work prescribed.

4 “(5) Within three months after making public the pro-
 5 posed classification and proposed scale of rates as herein-
 6 before provided, the Commission shall enter upon hearings
 7 concerning the reasonableness and lawfulness of such classi-
 8 fication and class rates, and the reasonableness and lawfulness
 9 of any other uniform classification and class rates, and of
 10 any exceptions thereto or modifications thereof which any
 11 carrier or other interested party may reasonably submit for
 12 consideration.

13 “(6) After full hearings, as provided for in the preced-
 14 ing section, the Commission shall issue an order or orders,
 15 to become effective not later than two years from the com-
 16 mencement of said hearings, requiring the establishment of
 17 such uniform classification, and such uniform scale of maxi-
 18 mum, minimum, or maximum and minimum class rates
 19 applicable to transportation by railroad of property on
 20 which individual commodity rates are not provided or
 21 continued—subject to such exceptions and modifications, if
 22 any, as the Commission may deem necessary to correct
 23 inequitable conditions, provide adequate transportation in
 24 particular areas or provide adequate revenues for particular
 25 railroads—as the Commission shall find to be just, reason-

1 able, and lawful, in accordance with the provisions of this
2 Act as amended.

3 “(7) The Commission may, in carrying out the pro-
4 visions of this section, prescribe such reasonable rate group-
5 ings, rate-making distances, and mileage blocks as it may
6 consider proper in the public interest.

7 “(8) The provisions of this section are not to affect
8 the application of section 4 of this part, nor to affect com-
9 modity rates, exceptions to the classification, nor special
10 export and import, nor port differential rates, nor rail-water
11 rates, where in the judgment of the Commission such rates
12 are lawful and proper.

13 “(9) After any order issued under the preceding sec-
14 tion shall have become effective, any changes relating to
15 the rates or classification established pursuant to such order
16 may be sought and made in accordance with the procedures
17 prescribed in part I of this Act, as amended.

18 “(10) This section shall take effect thirty days after
19 its approval.”

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