



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2007 Wisconsin Act 117
[2007 Senate Bill 72]

**Midwest Interstate
Passenger Rail Compact**

2007 Wisconsin Act 117 ratifies the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact (the compact) by incorporating the text of the compact into the Wisconsin Statutes and creating a mechanism for the appointment of Wisconsin representatives to the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (the commission). The Act makes Wisconsin the ninth state to join the compact, along with Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio.

The compact states that its purposes are to:

- Promote intercity passenger rail service in the Midwest.
- Coordinate the interactions on this topic among elected officials of Midwestern states.
- Promote long-range planning for high-speed passenger rail service within the Midwestern region and between regions of the United States.
- Coordinate the activities of the public and private sectors at the local, state, and federal levels and promote the interests of the Midwestern region regarding passenger rail.
- Support the efforts of transportation agencies involved in developing passenger rail service in the Midwest.

The commission consists of four representatives from each member state, as follows:

- The Governor or his or her designee.
- Two legislators, one from each house.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

- One member from the private sector appointed by the Governor.

The compact specifies a number of duties and powers of the commission, including the following:

- The duty to advocate for funding and authorization of passenger rail improvements in the region.
- The duty to promote partnerships with the rail industry and labor, among others, to promote passenger rail in the region.
- The duty to seek development of a long-range plan for high-speed passenger rail service.
- The power to advocate for implementation of passenger rail systems or plans.
- The power to educate and work with various officials and the public to promote the purposes of the compact.
- The power to make recommendations to member states.

The compact authorizes member states to withdraw from the compact by repeal of the compact; withdrawal is effective one year after such repeal. It addresses a number of additional matters regarding the implementation of the compact and administration of the commission.

The Act specifies that members of the commission shall serve without compensation. The Act authorizes payment of the costs of membership in the compact; language calling for the reimbursement of the commissioners' actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties was removed from Senate Bill 72 by amendment.

Effective Date: 2007 Wisconsin Act 117 takes effect April 4, 2008.

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