

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9088

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a rail route linking Alaska to the North American continental rail network, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 2, 2026

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a rail route linking Alaska to the North American continental rail network, 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 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Polar Express Act of
5 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. POLAR EXPRESS FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-

1 tation shall initiate a feasibility study on the establishment
2 of a rail route linking the State of Alaska to the North
3 American rail network in the continental United States,
4 to be known as the “Polar Express”.

5 (b) SCOPE.—The Secretary shall determine the
6 scope, contents, and methodology of the feasibility study
7 conducted under this section, and may consult with such
8 Federal agencies, State, Tribal, and local governments,
9 foreign governments, and other stakeholders as the Sec-
10 retary determines appropriate.

11 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
12 on which the feasibility study is initiated under subsection
13 (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
14 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
15 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
16 and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the
17 results of the feasibility study and any recommendations
18 of the Secretary.

19 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
20 shall be construed—

21 (1) to authorize the construction of the rail
22 route described in subsection (a); or

23 (2) to commit Federal funds for the construc-
24 tion of such rail route.

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