

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-\_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF LINE ITEM 2673 OF HB 5001 THAT DIRECTS OPPAGA TO COMMISSION A STUDY ON PASSENGER SAFETY AND HIGH SPEED PASSENGER RAIL SAFETY IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA.**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida currently has four passenger rail systems operating within its jurisdiction: Tri-Rail, SUNRail, All Aboard Florida/Brightline and Amtrak, and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017 alone, there were approximately 43 deaths and 198 non-fatal injuries relating to the identified passenger rail systems in the State of Florida;

**WHEREAS**, although high-speed passenger rail is not a new concept and has been contemplated since at least 1996, All Aboard Florida/Brightline is anticipated to be the first company to operate such a system in the State of Florida between West Palm Beach and Orlando at speeds of up to 125 mph, and

**WHEREAS**, Brightline intends to operate 32 passenger trains at an average speed of 106 mph on the Florida East Coast Railway corridor through populated areas of Indian River County, including Vero Beach, Sebastian, and the communities of Gifford, Roseland, Wabasso and Winter Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, Indian River County has significant safety concerns about Brightline traversing at such high speeds along an open railroad corridor and across 31 highway-railroad grade crossings, and

**WHEREAS**, line item 2673 of HB 5001 (Conference Report on 5001), directs the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to commission a study that includes the following:

- An overview of the Florida Rail System, including existing and planned passenger rail and high-speed passenger rail operations in the state, and identification of existing and planned passenger rail and high-speed passenger rail stations, corridors, and associated railroad-highway crossings;
- An overview of the jurisdiction of federal, state, and local governments to regulate passenger rail and high-speed passenger rail operations;
- A review of data relating to incidents, including resulting injuries and fatalities, involving passenger rail and high-speed passenger rail operations in Florida;

- Recommendations to further enhance passenger rail and high-speed passenger rail safety in Florida, including a review of current crossing signalization, grade crossings and separations, corridor protection, public education and awareness, and coordination with local law enforcement and emergency management officials; and
- Recommendations to further improve passenger rail and high-speed passenger rail in Florida.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:**

**Section 1.** The above “WHEREAS” clauses are true and correct, and are hereby adopted as findings of the Board.

**Section 2.** The Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County respectfully requests Governor Rick Scott support and not veto line item 2673 of HB 5001.

**Section 3.** A certified copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Governor Rick Scott, Florida State Senators Debbie Mayfield and Joe Negron, and Florida State Representatives Erin Grall, and MaryLynn Magar, United States Senators Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson, United States Congressmen Bill Posey and Brian Mast and Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Mike Dew.

The foregoing resolution was moved for adoption by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, and, upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Chairman Peter D. O’Bryan	_____
Vice Chairman Bob Solari	_____
Commissioner Susan Adams	_____
Commissioner Joseph E. Flescher	_____
Commissioner Tim Zorc	_____

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2018.

**ATTEST:** Jeffrey R. Smith, Clerk of Court  
and Comptroller

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Peter D. O’Bryan, Chairman

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

By:   
Dylan Reingold, County Attorney