

CHAPTER 59 (HB 222)

AN ACT relating to the designation of the Commonwealth's official steam locomotive.

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's rich and vibrant railroad history, including the construction of America's second steam locomotive and the laying of one of the earliest railroads in the United States from Lexington to Frankfort and on to Louisville, has been and continues to be a source of pride and honor for the thousands of dedicated employees involved in making that history and to every Kentuckian who benefits from the transportation revolution that the railroads brought to this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, it is perhaps the steam locomotive which best exemplifies and symbolizes the historic growth of the railroad industry in the Commonwealth, continued today with the modern power of the Commonwealth's world class railroad companies; and

WHEREAS, there exists in Kentucky a special steam locomotive known affectionately far and wide as "Ol' Number 152" which annually pulls thousands of visitors behind her as she majestically strides along the high iron as the only regularly operating steam locomotive in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, in pulling express passenger trains from Louisville to points throughout the South or serving the vibrant rural communities of Kentucky, and in being tapped by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad to pull trains for such notable dignitaries as Theodore Roosevelt or such notorious criminals as Al Capone, steam locomotive #152 distinguished itself in its service to the people of this great nation and the citizens of this proud Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the volunteers of the Kentucky Railway Museum, in tirelessly laboring over thirteen years to transform steam locomotive #152 from an engine facing the scrapyard to the pride of the Commonwealth which it is today, giving of themselves in time, effort, and money, provide an example to us all of the civic pride and involvement which typify the conduct to be found in and give true meaning to the term "Commonwealth;"

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 2 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Steam locomotive #152, a 4-6-2 Light Pacific, formerly of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and restored to operation by the volunteer members of the Kentucky Railway Museum, is named and designated as the official steam locomotive of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Approved March 6, 2000

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