



2009 BILL

- 1 **AN ACT** *to create* 85.057 of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring that certain rail
2 passenger service extension projects be enumerated by the legislature.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Department of Transportation (DOT) administers a rail passenger route development program, funded from general obligation bond proceeds. The program allows DOT, subject to various limitations, to provide funds for certain expenses relating to rail passenger service, including capital costs related to rail passenger service routes between the cities of Milwaukee and Madison. Federal funds may also be available for rail passenger service route development.

This bill prohibits DOT, as well as any other state agency or regional transit authority, from encumbering or expending any federal, state, or local funds for any aspect of a rail passenger service extension project, including for costs associated with environmental assessments or reports, preliminary engineering or design work, or project construction, unless the legislature has approved the project by statutory enumeration. The bill defines a “rail passenger service extension project” as a project that involves extending an existing rail passenger route, or creating a new rail passenger route, within any corridor between the cities of Milwaukee and Madison. The bill does not enumerate any such projects.

For further information see the ***state and local*** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

