



**Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen**  
A Division of the Rail Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

**General Committee of Adjustment  
AMTRAK / MBCR/Connex**

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## Memorandum

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**To:** All Local Chairmen & BLET Members, Amtrak/MBCR/Connex GCA  
**From:** Mark B. Kenny, General Chairman  
**Date:** July 28, 2005  
**Subject:** BLET Ballot on Division Size Initiative

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BLET Members are presently receiving a ballot from the National Division to vote on an initiative relative to Division size. At issue is whether or not divisions with under 25 members should be kept at their current size or be merged with other larger divisions. The subject initiative rises from the constitutional obligation to ballot the Membership on this matter pursuant to **Section 37(b)** of the BLET Bylaws. Because of the substantial impact this would have on a significant number of Amtrak divisions under this GCA, thereby causing our smaller divisions to be merged, all Members are strongly urged to vote **NO** on this ballot. Thus, allowing existing divisions with under 25 members to continue in existence at their present size. Reproduced below is the ND advisory posted on the BLET website, which more fully explains the constitutional basis and purpose of this initiative. Should any Local Chairmen have further concerns or questions in this regard, please call.

### **BLET members to vote on Division size initiative**

1. CLEVELAND, July 22 -- BLET members will consider a constitutional provision this month that may impact the size of local divisions.

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In question is Section 37(b) of the Brotherhood's bylaws, which calls for a membership vote on whether they want to keep divisions at their current size or merge them with other divisions if active membership in the division falls below 25.

Divisions that have less than 25 members are protected by a grandfather clause contained in Section 37(b), identified as Note 1. If members vote to remove this protection, then divisions with less than 25 members may be merged with other divisions on the same seniority district or division under the same general committee of adjustment. Currently, there are 94 divisions that have less than 25 members.

The BLET National Division is required to put this question to a membership vote by Note 2 of Section 37(b).

Section 37(b) reads as follows:

“37 (b) If the membership of any division falls below twenty-five (25) active members, the National President shall investigate the cause; and unless the interests of the organization require the continuance of the division, he shall have the authority to order it to be merged with another division on the same seniority district or a division under the same GCA.

“NOTE 1: Divisions chartered before the effective date of these bylaws will retain the previous threshold level of twelve (12) active members.

“NOTE 2: Within two (2) years of the effective date of these bylaws, a ballot will be sent to the active membership under the Initiative process to decide whether to eliminate Note 1.”

Ballots on this measure will be mailed on July 22 and all votes must be in by August 26. Members may return the ballot via U.S. mail in a pre-paid envelope that will be provided; or they may also vote online via the BLET website at: <http://www.ble-t.org/vote>

Online voting requires a username and password, which is the same login information to access the members area of the BLET website