
Introduced by Senator Ackerman
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Daucher)

June 18, 2001

Senate Joint Resolution No. 19—Relative to railroad grade crossings.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 19, as introduced, Ackerman. Railroad grade crossings: quiet zones.

This measure would memorialize the Federal Railroad Administration to adopt, as soon as possible, regulations relating to the establishment of quiet zones at railroad grade crossings in accordance with a specified federal law and the Congress to approve legislation that provides funding to the states for the implementation of supplemental safety measures for the purposes of establishing those quiet zones.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Federal Railroad Administration is proposing
2 regulations to carry out Section 20153 of Title 49 of the United
3 States Code that, in general, require a locomotive horn to be
4 sounded when a train is approaching and entering a public
5 highway-rail grade crossing; and
6 WHEREAS, The adoption of those federal regulations will
7 enable appropriate public entities to submit waiver petitions to the
8 Federal Railroad Administration for the purpose of establishing
9 quiet zones, within which locomotive horns may not be sounded,
10 at eligible railroad grade crossings, together with proposals for the
11 implementation of safety measures that adequately substitute for
12 the sounding of the locomotive horn; and

1 WHEREAS, The applicable federal law also authorizes the
2 Secretary of Transportation to provide, in advance of any
3 rulemaking by the Federal Railroad Administration, for certain
4 exceptions to the requirement to sound the locomotive horn,
5 including exceptions for categories of railroad grade crossings that
6 feature supplementary safety measures that, in the judgment of the
7 secretary, compensate for the absence of the warning provided by
8 the locomotive horn; and

9 WHEREAS, Many communities are likely to improve the
10 safety of railroad grade crossings for the purpose of establishing
11 quiet zones, thereby preventing fatalities and injuries relating to
12 those crossings while improving the quality of living conditions
13 for those living near crossings; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*
15 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully
16 memorializes the Federal Railroad Administration to adopt, as
17 soon as possible, regulations relating to the establishment of quiet
18 zones at eligible railroad grade crossings in accordance with
19 Section 20153 of Title 49 of the United States Code; and be it
20 further

21 *Resolved,* That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the
22 Congress of the United States to approve legislation that provides
23 the necessary funding to the states for the implementation of
24 supplemental safety measures for the purpose of establishing quiet
25 zones in accordance with that federal law; and be it further

26 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
27 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
28 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority
29 Leader of the Senate, each Senator and Representative from
30 California in the Congress of the United States, the Secretary of
31 Transportation, and the Federal Railroad Administrator.

