

Senate File 503 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 503

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 242)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the closure of railway crossings for repairs
2 or upgrades, and making penalties applicable.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 327G.25, Code 2023, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 **327G.25 Closing of crossing for repair or upgrade.**

4 1. A railway railroad corporation shall not close a railway
5 crossing to the traveling public for more than ~~thirty~~ twenty
6 consecutive days for the purpose of repairing or upgrading the
7 crossing.

8 2. Before closing a railway crossing, a railroad
9 corporation shall provide notice to the county board of
10 supervisors or city council that has jurisdiction over the
11 crossing detailing the work to be completed, the expected date
12 the work will be completed, and the procedures the corporation
13 will use to close and reopen the crossing.

14 3. Notwithstanding subsection 1, the county board of
15 supervisors or city council that has jurisdiction over a
16 closed crossing may agree that a crossing may be closed for an
17 additional twenty consecutive days. A railroad corporation
18 seeking to extend the closure of a crossing shall provide
19 notice to the applicable board or council detailing the
20 remaining work to be completed, the expected date the remaining
21 work will be completed, and the procedures the corporation will
22 use to reopen the crossing. Such notice shall be provided by
23 the railroad corporation no later than the seventeenth day
24 after the crossing was closed.

25 4. A railway railroad corporation violating **this section**
26 shall, upon conviction, be subject to a schedule "~~one~~" "four"
27 penalty under section 327C.5 for each day a crossing is closed
28 after the number of days allowed in subsection 1 or 3, as
29 applicable.

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 Current law prohibits a railroad corporation from closing
34 a railway crossing for more than 30 days for the purpose of
35 repairing or upgrading the crossing, and a corporation that

1 violates Code section 327G.25 is subject to a \$100 penalty.

2 This bill prohibits a railroad corporation from closing
3 a railway crossing for more than 20 consecutive days for
4 the purpose of repairing or upgrading the crossing, and a
5 corporation is subject to a penalty of not less than \$500 nor
6 more than \$5,000 for each day a crossing is closed after the
7 number of days allowed in the bill.

8 The bill requires a railroad corporation to provide notice
9 about an upcoming crossing closure to the county board of
10 supervisors or city council that has jurisdiction over the
11 crossing, prior to closing the crossing. A county board of
12 supervisors or city council is authorized to extend the closure
13 of a crossing for an additional 20 consecutive days if a
14 railroad corporation provides notice.