

February 27, 1959.
Passed on File.

House File 584
By GORDY.

Passed House, Date..... Passed Senate, Date.....
Vote: Ayes..... Nays..... Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....
Approved.....

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend section four hundred seventy-eight point twenty-one (478.21), Code 1958, relating to railway tracks crossing primary roads.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

- 1 Section 1. Section four hundred seventy-eight point
- 2 twenty-one (478.21), Code 1958, is hereby amended by
- 3 inserting after the word "protection," in line eleven (11)
- 4 the following: "provided that wherever a railway track
- 5 crosses or shall hereafter cross a primary highway, the
- 6 railway company shall, at all times, maintain a flashing
- 7 light and bell signal or gate signal to warn the traveling
- 8 public of the approach of trains to said crossing,".

EXPLANATION OF HOUSE FILE 584

The average motorist driving on a primary road expects a railway crossing to be clear unless a signal indicates otherwise. Section 478.21 of the Code seems to give the State highway commission jurisdiction to require flashing lights and bell signals or gate signals but the highway commission has been lax in requiring these signals at some dangerous crossings on primary roads. This bill provides that a flashing light and bell system or gate signal be maintained at each railway crossing a primary road.

