

**Senate File 39 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 39  
BY SHIPLEY

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to required railway crossing signs, signals, and
- 2 gate arms.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 327G.2, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **327G.2 Crossings — signs, gate arms, and signals.**

4 1. Every Notwithstanding the requirements under section  
5 327G.15, every railroad corporation constructing or operating a  
6 railway shall make and construct at all points where such railway  
7 crosses any public road good, sufficient, and safe crossings,  
8 and erect at such points, at a sufficient elevation from such  
9 road as to admit a free passage of vehicles of every kind, a  
10 sign at least two signs with large and distinct letters placed  
11 thereon, and install a sufficient number of gate arms, gate arm  
12 signals, and crossing signal lights designed to flash when a  
13 train approaches a crossing, to give notice of the proximity of  
14 the railway, and warn persons of the necessity of looking out for  
15 trains. The railroad corporation is responsible for all costs  
16 associated with complying with this subsection.

17 2. Any railway company railroad corporation neglecting or  
18 refusing to comply with the provisions of this section shall be  
19 liable for all damages sustained by reason of such refusal or  
20 neglect, and it shall only be necessary, in order to recover, for  
21 the injured party to prove such neglect or refusal.

22 EXPLANATION

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

25 Under current law, wherever a railway track crosses a highway,  
26 street, or alley, the railroad corporation owning such track  
27 and the applicable governmental entity with jurisdiction over  
28 the crossed highway, street, or alley may agree upon the  
29 location, manner, vacation, physical structure, characteristics,  
30 and maintenance of the crossing and flasher lights or gate arm  
31 signals at the crossing and the allocation of associated costs  
32 thereof (Code section 327G.15). In addition, every corporation  
33 constructing or operating a railway is required to make and  
34 construct at all points where such railway crosses any public  
35 road good, sufficient, and safe crossings and erect at such

1 points, at a sufficient elevation from such road as to admit a  
2 free passage of vehicles of every kind, a sign with large and  
3 distinct letters placed thereon, to give notice of the proximity  
4 of the railway, and warn persons of the necessity of looking out  
5 for trains.

6 This bill requires a railroad corporation constructing or  
7 operating a railway to erect at least two such signs, and  
8 install a sufficient number of gate arms, gate arm signals, and  
9 crossing signal lights designed to flash when a train approaches  
10 a crossing, to give notice of the proximity of the railway and  
11 warn persons of the necessity of looking out for trains. The  
12 bill provides that the railroad corporation is responsible for  
13 all associated costs.

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