

# SENATE BILL No. 136

February 10, 2011, Introduced by Senator ROBERTSON and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill to amend 1993 PA 354, entitled "Railroad code of 1993," by amending section 307 (MCL 462.307).

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 307. (1) A new public street, highway, or a new  
2 nonmotorized trail shall not be constructed across the tracks of  
3 any railroad, or the new tracks of any railroad shall not be  
4 constructed across a public street, highway, or nonmotorized trail  
5 until approval is granted by the department. Upon application, the  
6 department shall investigate the location of the proposed crossing.

7           (2) The department, when it determines necessary for the  
8 safety of the public, may change the location of or abolish any  
9 existing public grade crossing after not less than 30 days' notice

1 in the area affected by the crossing. A public hearing shall be  
2 held by the department if requested by any affected party. Within  
3 30 days after the date of the hearing, the department may issue an  
4 order to close the existing grade crossing. Any person, local unit  
5 of government, or road authority having an interest in the  
6 abolishment of an existing grade crossing, within 30 days after the  
7 closure order of the department, may commence an action in the  
8 circuit court for the county of Ingham against the department as  
9 defendant to vacate or set aside the order.

10 (3) Commencing with the date of the federal designation of a  
11 high-speed rail corridor, a public or private at-grade street or  
12 highway or a farm, bicycle, or pedestrian crossing shall not be  
13 constructed across the railroad tracks of that corridor except for  
14 a crossing consolidation or relocation approved by the department.

15 (4) If the location of a proposed crossing is found to be  
16 necessary, feasible, and may be made reasonably safe for a crossing  
17 at grade, the department shall grant permission for the crossing.  
18 The department shall require installation of ~~such~~ traffic control  
19 devices ~~as~~ **THAT** in its judgment may be appropriate. When a crossing  
20 necessitated by a new roadway across an existing track is  
21 permitted, **AND THE CROSSING DOES NOT PROVIDE THE SOLE ACCESS TO THE**  
22 **PROPERTY**, the department shall, ~~simultaneously,~~ after investigation  
23 and **A** hearing, **IF REQUIRED**, order the abolishment of 1 or more  
24 existing grade crossings having less than ~~100~~ **500** vehicles a day  
25 within the same road authority jurisdiction. ~~, if the involved road~~  
26 ~~authority and railroad may waive hearing thereon.~~ **IF THE CROSSING**  
27 **HAVING LESS THAN 500 VEHICLES A DAY WITHIN THE SAME ROAD AUTHORITY**

1 JURISDICTION PROVIDES THE SOLE ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY, THE  
2 DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT ORDER THE ABOLITION OF THE GRADE CROSSING.

3 (5) If the department determines that the proposed location  
4 may not be made reasonably safe for a grade crossing, it shall deny  
5 permission for the crossing and require the crossing to be  
6 redesigned, if constructed at that location, or to be made other  
7 than at grade in accordance with section 319. If the department  
8 determines that it is impractical to secure a safe crossing at the  
9 point in question, either at grade or otherwise, it shall deny the  
10 grade crossing.

11 (6) The full cost of constructing a new street or highway  
12 across an existing railroad, or of a new railroad track or tracks  
13 across an existing street or highway, shall be borne by the party  
14 requesting the crossing. The following shall apply to a new or  
15 relocated grade crossing:

16 (a) The plans for the grade crossing shall be approved by both  
17 railroad and road authority. If there is a failure to agree, the  
18 department shall settle the points of disagreement by the terms of  
19 its order.

20 (b) The relocation of an existing grade crossing or the  
21 establishment of a new grade crossing at which the existing public  
22 highway grade crossing is completely abandoned, shall be  
23 constructed and the cost borne in the same manner as in the case of  
24 a new grade crossing. The maintenance responsibility of the  
25 relocated crossing shall be the same as the removed crossing unless  
26 otherwise agreed to by the parties.

27 (c) Temporary grade crossings shall be constructed,

1 maintained, and removed at the sole expense of the parties  
2 requesting the same.

3 (d) The cost of construction shall include the direct  
4 construction cost of the roadbed, track structure, grade crossing  
5 surface, pavement, traffic control devices and drainage, including  
6 all material, labor, and services and other costs of construction.

7 (e) After construction, the grade crossing and traffic control  
8 devices shall be maintained as provided in this act.

9 (7) Upon approval of any new grade crossing project requested  
10 by a road authority, the road authority shall notify the railroad,  
11 in writing, to furnish a competent inspector and other necessary  
12 persons to inspect the construction of the grade crossing which  
13 shall be constructed according to the order of the department. The  
14 road authority shall pay to the railroad the actual costs incurred  
15 by the railroad for the time actually and necessarily spent in  
16 inspecting construction. Upon approval of any new grade crossing  
17 project requested by a railroad, the railroad shall notify the road  
18 authority, in writing, to furnish a competent inspector and other  
19 necessary persons to inspect the construction of the grade crossing  
20 which shall be constructed according to the order of the  
21 department. The railroad shall pay to the road authority the actual  
22 costs incurred by the road authority for the time actually and  
23 necessarily spent in inspecting construction.

24 (8) A road authority may request a railroad or a railroad may  
25 request a road authority, in writing, to reconstruct, change,  
26 widen, or alter that portion of an existing grade crossing with a  
27 public street or highway for which they are responsible to

1 accommodate the requesting party's plans for reconstruction,  
2 change, widening, or alteration of their crossing related facility.  
3 The requesting party shall notify the other party to conform to the  
4 change simultaneously with the requesting party's work. However, if  
5 the party requested to make changes refuses, the requesting party  
6 may make application to the department for a determination. The  
7 department, after due hearing on the issue, shall determine the  
8 matters in dispute by order. The full cost of the reconstructing,  
9 change, widening, or alteration shall be borne by the party  
10 requesting it, unless otherwise agreed to.

11 (9) If a track through any grade crossing is abandoned through  
12 legal proceedings, the railroad, at its cost as part of routine  
13 maintenance, shall remove the tracks and any active traffic control  
14 devices and then shall restore the street or highway surface in a  
15 manner satisfactory to the road authority. The road authority, at  
16 its cost as part of routine maintenance, shall remove all passive  
17 traffic control devices. The track and all traffic control devices  
18 shall be removed within 1 year of the abandonment. Until such  
19 removal is complete, the railroad and road authority shall maintain  
20 it in accordance with this act.

21 (10) If a track through any grade crossing becomes unnecessary  
22 for the conduct of railroad services, the railroad, at its cost as  
23 part of routine maintenance, shall remove the track and any active  
24 traffic control devices and then shall restore the street or  
25 highway surface in a manner satisfactory to the road authority. The  
26 road authority, at its cost as part of routine maintenance, shall  
27 remove all passive traffic control devices. The department may

1 order the railroad to remove the track and any traffic control  
2 devices if there is not a likelihood of continued use. Until the  
3 track and all traffic control devices are removed, the railroad and  
4 road authority shall maintain it in accordance with this act.