

By Senator Rodriguez

40-01339-26

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20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22 Section 1. Present subsection (5) of section 351.03,
23 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (6), and a new
24 subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

351.03 Railroad-highway grade-crossing warning signs and signals; audible warnings; exercise of reasonable care; blocking highways, roads, and streets during darkness.—

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30 highway or street on which a public railroad-highway grade
31 crossing is established, updated, or modified shall install and
32 Maintain detection and monitoring systems at each such crossing.
33 The Department of Transportation shall adopt rules establishing
34 minimum technical and performance standards and criteria for the
35 use of such systems, including criteria for prioritizing high-
36 risk crossings for the installation of such systems, and shall
37 provide technical assistance to governmental entities during
38 installation. Such systems must include all of the following
39 technology:

40 1. Detection of pedestrians, vehicles, or other
41 obstructions within the crossing area.

42 2. Real-time analysis of conditions to identify potential
43 safety hazards.

44 3. Real-time transmission of warnings or alerts to train
45 crews and other authorized railroad personnel responsible for
46 train operations.

47 4. Coordination with, and compatibility to the extent
48 practicable with, railroad safety systems, including positive
49 train control systems.

50 (b) Installation and maintenance of the systems specified
51 in paragraph (a) may be funded through grants, state-
52 appropriated funds, public-private partnerships, or federal
53 funds. The department may provide financial assistance or
54 incentives to governmental entities responsible for public
55 railroad-highway grade crossings to support the installation and
56 Maintenance of detection and monitoring systems required under
57 this subsection.

58 (c) By October 1, 2027, and each year thereafter, each

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59 governmental entity responsible for a public railroad-highway
60 grade crossing at which detection and monitoring systems are
61 installed pursuant to this subsection shall submit an annual
62 report to the department containing data generated by such
63 systems, including hazard detections, warnings or alerts issued,
64 and any safety hazards prevented. By January 1, 2028, and
65 biennially thereafter, the department shall compile the local
66 governmental entity reports and submit a summary report to the
67 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
68 Representatives.

69 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.