

By Senator Rodriguez

40-01339-26

20261310\_\_

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to railroad safety; amending s.  
351.03, F.S.; requiring certain governmental entities  
to install and maintain specified detection and  
monitoring systems at public railroad-highway grade  
crossings by a specified date; requiring the  
Department of Transportation to adopt specified rules  
and provide technical support to governmental  
entities; specifying requirements for the detection  
and monitoring systems; authorizing installation and  
maintenance of such systems to be funded through  
certain sources; requiring certain governmental  
entities to submit a specified report to the  
department by a specified date and each year  
thereafter; requiring the department to compile such  
reports and submit a summary report to the Legislature  
by a specified date and biennially thereafter;  
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Present subsection (5) of section 351.03,  
Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (6), and a new  
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.—

(5)(a) Beginning January 1, 2027, the governmental entity  
having jurisdiction over or maintenance responsibility for the

40-01339-26

20261310\_\_

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

40-01339-26

20261310\_\_

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

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