

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Establishment of Railroad Quiet Zones

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Authorizes cities, counties, and towns to establish "quiet zones" in which the sounding of railroad horns, whistles, and other audible warnings is regulated or prohibited. Requires quiet zones to be at least one-half mile long. Requires quiet zone ordinances and regulations to conform to federal law and regulation.

(Under recent rules of the federal railroad administration localities are allowed to regulate train whistles only if they establish quiet zones where all rail-highway grade crossings have protective measures, including crossing gates, that "fully compensate for the absence of the audible warning provided by the locomotive horn.")

Allows cities and counties to spend county state-aid and municipal state-aid funds to buy, construct, and install grade crossing signals and barriers on county state-aid highways and municipal state-aid streets to meet federal quiet zone requirements.