



HOUSE BILL 82: Railroad Crossings/On-Track Equipment.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	December 30, 2019
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Wendy Ray
Analysis of:	S.L. 2019-36		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2019-36 clarifies that statutory rail crossing requirements and restrictions that apply when a railroad train is approaching also apply when on-track equipment is approaching.*

This act became effective December 1, 2019, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

CURRENT LAW: There are several statutes related to safety of vehicles at railroad crossings. G.S. 20-142.1 requires vehicles to stop when there is a signal or plainly visible approaching train. G.S. 20-142.3 requires school buses and certain other vehicles to stop at all grade crossings before proceeding. G.S. 20-142.4 provides additional safety requirements for moving heavy equipment over grade crossings. G.S. 20-142.5 prohibits entering a grade crossing unless there is sufficient room on the other side to accommodate the vehicle without obstructing the passage of other vehicles, pedestrians, and trains. Violation of any of these provisions is an infraction.

BILL ANALYSIS: This act defines "on-track equipment" as any railcar, rolling stock, equipment, vehicle, or other device that is operated on stationary rails.

The act also amends the statutes related to safety of vehicles at railroad crossings to make clear that the requirements that apply when a train is approaching or visible also apply when on-track equipment is approaching or visible.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act became effective December 1, 2019, and applies to offenses occurring on or after that date.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578