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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...  
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

1997-98

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Education...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

\* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (December 2012)

## Senate

### Record of Committee Proceedings

#### **Committee on Education**

##### **Senate Bill 462**

Relating to: requirements for driver education courses.  
By Senator Rude; cosponsored by Representative Hahn.

February 18, 1998 Referred to committee on Education.

March 11, 1998 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (8) Senators C. Potter, Jauch, Shibilski,  
Grobschmidt, Darling, Huelsman, Roessler and  
Fitzgerald.  
Absent: (0) None.

##### Appearances for

- Senator Brian Rude
- Thomas Dwyer for United Transportation Union

##### Appearances against

- None.

##### Appearances for Information Only

- None.

##### Registrations for

- Representative Gene Hahn
- Dick Becker for DPI
- Jack Coe for WEAC/WFT
- Thomas Dwyer for United Transportation Union

##### Registrations against

- None.

March 11, 1998 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Present: (7) Senators C. Potter, Shibilski, Grobschmidt,  
Darling, Huelsman, Roessler and Fitzgerald.  
Absent: (1) Senator Jauch.

Moved by Senator Roessler, seconded by Senator Fitzgerald, that **Senate Bill 462** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (8) Senators C. Potter, Jauch (by polling),  
Shibilski, Grobschmidt, Darling, Huelsman,  
Roessler and Fitzgerald.

Noes: (0) None.

Absent: (0) None.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 8, Noes 0, Absent 0

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Paul Rusk  
Committee Clerk



# EUGENE HAHN

State Representative • 47th Assembly District



Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Chairman:  
Assembly Committee on  
Tourism & Recreation

Dear Chairman Potter and Committee Members:

Thank you for having a public hearing on Senate Bill 462, relating to requirements for drivers education courses and railroad grade crossings.

For years, I have warned people about the dangers of railroad crossings. In fact, on September 20, 1997, I witnessed an accident first-hand when I saw a car collide with an Amtrak passenger train, which was speeding through a rural Columbia County intersection at almost 80 miles per hour. While it was a miracle that the passengers of the car survived, the memory of the accident remains vivid and has led me to make railroad crossing safety a legislative priority.

Currently, driver education courses offered by school districts, county children with disabilities boards and technical college districts must specifically teach students how to deal with the potential hazards of farm machinery and animals on the road.

This bill requires, in addition to the above hazards, that driver education courses prepare students how to deal with the unique hazards that are posed by railroad grade crossings.

Every 90 minutes, someone in America is hit by a train. More people lose their lives in vehicle collisions with trains each year than are killed in airline crashes. According to a recent Legislative Audit Bureau report, Wisconsin's railroad crossing accident and injury rate is higher than the national average and those of most neighboring states. In the first six months of 1997, there were 3 fatalities and 20 injuries as a result of vehicle/train collisions in Wisconsin.

I believe that one of the most effective ways to eliminate the high number of Wisconsin deaths and injuries at railroad crossings is through education. Heightening the public's awareness of the inherent dangers at railroad crossings is a proactive measure which will prevent further needless accidents and fatalities.

I hope that you will join me in support of Senate Bill 462.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eugene Hahn".

Eugene Hahn  
State Representative  
47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

