



2003 DRAFTING REQUEST

Bill

Received: **12/18/2002**

Received By: **agary**

Wanted: **Soon**

Identical to LRB:

For: **Administration-Budget**

By/Representing: **Vail**

This file may be shown to any legislator: **NO**

Drafter: **agary**

May Contact:

Addl. Drafters:

Subject: **Transportation - railroads**

Extra Copies: **TNF, PJH**

Submit via email: **YES**

Requester's email:

Carbon copy (CC:) to: **robert.marchant@legis.state.wi.us**

Pre Topic:

DOA:.....Vail - BB0269,

Topic:

Eliminate office of commissioner of railroads

Instructions:

See Attached

Drafting History:

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Proofed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
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/1			pgreensl 01/02/2003	_____	amentkow 01/02/2003		S&L
/2	agary	csicilia	pgreensl	_____	amentkow		S&L

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/3	agary 02/04/2003	kgilfoy 02/04/2003	rschluet 02/04/2003	_____	lemery 02/04/2003		S&L
/4	agary 02/06/2003	kgilfoy 02/06/2003	pgreensl 02/06/2003	_____	mbarman 02/06/2003		S&L
/5	agary 02/17/2003	wjackson 02/17/2003	rschluet 02/17/2003	_____	sbasford 02/17/2003		S&L
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King*

[Handwritten Signature]
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PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

D-Note

redraft

1 AN ACT *redraft*; relating to: eliminating the office of the commissioner of railroads and
 2 transferring the office's duties to the department of transportation, making an
 3 appropriation, and granting rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

TRANSPORTATION

RAIL AND AIR TRANSPORTATION

Office of commissioner of railroads eliminated

Under current law, the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads (office) regulates railroad activities in Wisconsin. This bill eliminates the office, effective July 1, 2004, and provides for the elimination and transfer of its functions as follows:

1. The office is currently authorized to regulate railroads to prevent "unreasonable or unjustly discriminatory" rates and inadequate services within the state. The bill eliminates this authority.

2. Currently, before constructing any new track in the state, a railroad must have a certificate which is issued only after a hearing and a finding of "public convenience and necessity" by the office. Under this bill, the certificate is issued by ~~the department of transportation (DOT)~~ *stays* the hearing is discretionary, and the public convenience and necessity standard is abolished.

3. Under current law, the office is authorized to control the issuance of, and impose special restrictions on, railroad corporation securities, including stock and debt instruments. The office must approve issuance of railroad securities, may

determine their number, character, purpose, and issuing value, and may impose other restrictions. The bill eliminates this authority.

4. Under current law, the office may order railroads to install protective devices at crossings or make other safety improvements and may determine the type of grade crossing used where a railroad intersects a street or another railroad. The bill transfers this authority to DOT and authorizes DOT to issue orders in these matters without a hearing, based on investigation and application of safety, programming, and cost allocation criteria promulgated by rule. The bill provides for review of DOT orders in these matters by the Division of Hearings and Appeals (division) in ~~the~~ ^{DOA} ~~Department of Administration.~~

5. The office is currently assigned various other functions relating to railroads. In most cases, those regulatory functions not eliminated in the bill are transferred to DOT, and functions having the character of contested case resolution are transferred to the division. The bill requires the division to give due weight to the experience, technical competence, and specialized knowledge of DOT in transportation hearings and reviews.

6. The bill transfers certain functions of the office relating to railroad organization to the department of financial institutions.

7. The bill transfers 4.0 FTE positions to DOT and 1.0 FTE position to the division.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 15.03 of the statutes is amended to read:

2 **15.03 Attachment for limited purposes.** Any division, office, commission,
3 council or board attached under this section to a department or independent agency
4 or a specified division thereof shall be a distinct unit of that department, independent
5 agency or specified division. Any division, office, commission, council or board so
6 attached shall exercise its powers, duties and functions prescribed by law, including
7 rule making, licensing and regulation, and operational planning within the area of
8 program responsibility of the division, office, commission, council or board,
9 independently of the head of the department or independent agency, but budgeting,
10 program coordination and related management functions shall be performed under

1 the direction and supervision of the head of the department or independent agency,
2 ~~except that with respect to the office of the commissioner of railroads, all personnel~~
3 ~~and biennial budget requests by the office of the commissioner of railroads shall be~~
4 ~~provided to the department of transportation as required under s. 189.02 (7) and~~
5 ~~shall be processed and properly forwarded by the public service commission without~~
6 ~~change except as requested and concurred in by the office of the commissioner of~~
7 ~~railroads.~~

8 **SECTION 2.** 15.06 (1) (ar) of the statutes is repealed.

9 **SECTION 3.** 15.79 of the statutes is amended to read:

10 **15.79 Public service commission; creation.** There is created a public
11 service commission. No member of the commission may have a financial interest in
12 a ~~railroad~~ or public utility. If any member voluntarily becomes so interested, the
13 member's office shall become vacant. If the member involuntarily becomes so
14 interested, the member's office shall become vacant unless the member divests
15 himself or herself of the interest within a reasonable time. No commissioner may
16 serve on or under any committee of a political party. Each commissioner shall hold
17 office until a successor is appointed and qualified.

18 **SECTION 4.** 15.795 of the statutes is repealed.

19 **SECTION 5.** 20.155 (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 **20.155 Public service commission.** (intro.) There is appropriated to the
21 public service commission for the following ~~programs~~ program:

22 **SECTION 6.** 20.155 (2) of the statutes is repealed.

***NOTE: This SECTION involves a change in an appropriation that must be reflected in the revised schedule in s. 20.005, stats.

23 **SECTION 7.** 20.395 (4) (aq) of the statutes is amended to read:

1 20.395 (4) (aq) *Departmental management and operations, state funds.* The
2 amounts in the schedule for departmental planning and administrative activities
3 and the administration and management of departmental programs except those
4 programs under subs. (2) (bq), (cq), and (dq) and (3) (iq), including those activities in
5 s. 85.07 and including not less than \$220,000 in each fiscal year to reimburse the
6 department of justice for legal services provided the department under s. 165.25 (4)
7 (a) and including activities related to railroad regulation under chs. 190 to 195, the
8 transportation employment and mobility program under s. 85.24 that are not funded
9 from the appropriation under sub. (1) (bs), (bv) or (bx), the scholarship and loan
10 repayment incentive grant program under s. 85.107, and the Type 1 motorcycle,
11 moped, and motor bicycle safety program under s. 85.30 and to match federal funds
12 for mass transit planning.

13 **SECTION 8.** 20.395 (4) (ax) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 20.395 (4) (ax) *Departmental management and operations, federal funds.* All
15 moneys received from the federal government for the administration and
16 management of departmental programs except those programs under subs. (2) (bx)
17 and (dx) and (3) (ix), and for departmental planning and administrative activities
18 including all moneys received as federal aid as authorized by the governor under s.
19 16.54 to promote highway safety and continue the local traffic safety representatives
20 program and for purposes of s. 85.07 and for activities related to railroad regulation
21 under chs. 190 to 195 and for activities related to the transportation employment and
22 mobility program under s. 85.24 that are not funded from the appropriation under
23 sub. (1) (bs), (bv), or (bx), and to transfer to the appropriation account under s. 20.505
24 (1) (z) the amounts in the schedule under s. 20.505 (1) (z) for such purposes.

25 **SECTION 9.** 20.923 (4) (e) 11. of the statutes is repealed.

1 **SECTION 10.** 25.40 (1) (a) 12m. of the statutes is created to read:

2 25.40 (1) (a) 12m. Moneys collected under s. 195.60 that are deposited in the
3 general fund for costs of state government operations.

4 **SECTION 11.** 25.40 (1) (f) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

5 25.40 (1) (f) 1. Moneys received from the federal government, for the regulation
6 of railroads, that are deposited in the general fund and credited to the appropriation
7 under s. ~~20.155 (2) (m)~~ 20.395 (4) (ax).

8 **SECTION 12.** 26.20 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 26.20 (3) LOCOMOTIVE INSPECTOR; POWERS. Any locomotive inspector designated
10 by the department shall have the power to reject from service immediately any
11 locomotive, donkey, traction, or portable engine which, in the opinion of the inspector,
12 is deficient in adequate design, construction, or maintenance of the fire protective
13 devices designated in sub. (2), and any such locomotive, donkey, traction, or portable
14 engine so rejected from service shall not be returned to service until such defects have
15 been remedied to the satisfaction of the locomotive inspector. In case of disagreement
16 between the inspector and the owner of the locomotive, donkey, traction, or portable
17 engine so rejected from service as to the efficiency or proper maintenance of said
18 protective devices, then the owner of the locomotive, donkey, traction, or portable
19 engine may appeal to the ~~office of the commissioner of railroads~~ division of hearings
20 and appeals in the department of administration for a decision of said matter, but
21 pending such decision the locomotive, donkey, traction, or portable engine shall not
22 be returned to service.

23 **SECTION 13.** 26.20 (10) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 26.20 (10) ~~APPEAL TO OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILROADS~~ DIVISION OF
25 HEARINGS AND APPEALS. In case the department and any person operating any

1 locomotive, donkey, or threshing engine, or any engine, boiler, or locomotive cannot
2 agree as to the most practicable device or devices for preventing the escape of sparks,
3 cinders, or fire from smokestacks, ash pans or fire boxes, then the same shall be
4 determined by the ~~office of the commissioner of railroads~~ division of hearings and
5 appeals in the department of administration.

6 **SECTION 14.** 30.33 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 30.33 (1) BOARD TO HAVE POWERS OF RAILROAD CORPORATION. Any municipality
8 operating a public harbor through a board of harbor commissioners may, through
9 such board, construct, maintain or operate railway facilities or a harbor belt line
10 connecting various harbor facilities with one another or with other railroads within
11 the municipality or its vicinity. The board of harbor commissioners is granted all of
12 the rights, powers and privileges conferred upon railroad corporations by ss. 190.02
13 and 190.025 (3), except such rights, powers and privileges as are conferred upon
14 railroad corporations by s. 190.02 (9). Such facilities or belt line may be constructed,
15 maintained or operated partly outside the corporate limits of the municipality. In
16 constructing, maintaining or operating such facilities or belt line, the board of harbor
17 commissioners has the powers and privileges of railroad corporations and shall be
18 subject to the same restrictions as railroad corporations and to the supervision of the
19 ~~office of the commissioner of railroads~~ department of transportation, except as to the
20 system of accounting and the payment of wages to employees.

21 **SECTION 15.** 30.33 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 30.33 (2) MUNICIPALITY MAY ORGANIZE HARBOR RAILWAY CORPORATION. Any
23 municipality mentioned in sub. (1) may, with the consent of its board of harbor
24 commissioners, organize a railroad corporation for the purpose of constructing,
25 maintaining or operating a harbor belt line or may subscribe for stock in an existing

1 railroad corporation organized for such purpose. If the municipality decides to
2 organize a railroad corporation for such purpose, the governing body thereof may, by
3 resolution, authorize the chief executive officer or presiding officer of such
4 municipality to act, together with 4 citizens to be designated by the officer, as
5 incorporators of such company. Such incorporators shall proceed to incorporate the
6 railroad corporation in accordance with chs. 190 to 192, so far as applicable. Such
7 harbor railroad corporation is subject to the supervisory and regulatory powers of the
8 ~~office of the commissioner of railroads~~ department of transportation to the same
9 extent as other railroad corporations. The municipality may subscribe to the stock
10 of such harbor railroad corporation and may pay for such stock out of any funds it
11 may lawfully have available for that purpose, including the proceeds of harbor
12 improvement bonds.

13 **SECTION 16.** 66.0801 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 66.0801 (2) Sections 66.0803 to 66.0825 do not deprive the ~~office of the~~
15 ~~commissioner of railroads, department of transportation or public service~~
16 commission of any power under ~~ss. 195.05 and 197.01 to 197.10~~ and ch. 196.

17 **SECTION 17.** 84.05 of the statutes is amended to read:

18 **84.05 Railroad crossing improvements.** On a highway which the
19 department has authority to construct and which crosses a railroad, if the
20 department determines that the construction or reconstruction of a grade separation
21 or the rearrangement or elimination of a grade crossing or other rearrangement of
22 the highway or tracks is necessary in the interest of public safety or for convenience
23 of public travel, the department shall make a plan of the construction proposed and
24 an estimate of the cost thereof, including the cost of needed right-of-way; and shall
25 endeavor to make an arrangement with all persons concerned as to all matters

1 involved in the plan, including the portion of the cost of the contemplated work which
2 the persons shall defray. If the department is unable to contract with the persons
3 concerned as to the distribution and payment of the cost of the work or the
4 maintenance thereof, the department shall ~~lay the matter before the office of the~~
5 ~~commissioner of railroads, and the office of the commissioner of railroads shall~~
6 ~~review the proceedings and hold a hearing thereon in accordance with ss. 195.28 and~~
7 ~~195.29, and shall fix the portion of the cost of the construction and of the maintenance~~
8 ~~which is to be paid by the persons or corporations concerned, and the portion of the~~
9 ~~cost, if any, to be paid by the public, which portion shall be paid from the~~
10 ~~transportation fund, and issue an appropriate order.~~ The office of the commissioner
11 of railroads department shall determine the benefits, if any, which will inure to other
12 highways, and apportion and charge to the units of government responsible for the
13 construction of such other highways a fair portion of the cost. The department shall
14 promulgate a rule establishing criteria with respect to the allocation of costs under
15 this section. A person who is aggrieved by an order of the department under this
16 section may, within 20 days after the date that the order is issued, request review of
17 the order by the division of hearings and appeals. The division of hearings and
18 appeals shall review the order in the manner provided in s. 195.325.

19 **SECTION 18.** 85.013 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

20 85.013 (3) The division of hearings and appeals shall, in conducting any
21 hearing or review for the department under s. 227.43 (1) (bk), give due weight to the
22 experience, technical competence, and specialized knowledge of the department as
23 well as discretionary authority conferred upon the department, and great weight to
24 the department's interpretation of the statutes that it administers and rules
25 promulgated under those statutes. If there is a conflict between this subsection and

1 any other statute relating to any hearing or review conducted by the division of
2 hearings and appeals for the department under s. 227.43 (1) (bk), the provisions of
3 this subsection control.

4 **SECTION 19.** 86.001 (2m) of the statutes is repealed.

5 **SECTION 20.** 86.12 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 86.12 (2) If a railroad company fails to comply with the resolution in sub. (1)
7 within 30 days after service of the resolution, the county board, common council,
8 village board or town board may file a complaint with the ~~office~~ department alleging
9 the failure. The ~~office~~ department shall investigate and determine the matter in
10 controversy as ~~provided in ch. 195.~~ An order issued by the office under this
11 subsection has the same effect as an order in a proceeding brought under ch. 195, and
12 may issue an appropriate order.

13 **SECTION 21.** 86.13 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 86.13 (3) If any railroad company fails to grade, construct, pave, surface or
15 otherwise improve or maintain in good and safe condition for public travel as
16 required by this section any street or highway crossing after having been notified so
17 to do by the officer in charge thereof or of the highway improvement for 30 days after
18 such notification, the highway authorities may file a complaint with the ~~office~~
19 department. The ~~office~~ department shall investigate and determine the matter in
20 controversy as ~~provided in ch. 195.~~ An order issued by the office under this
21 subsection has the same effect as an order in a proceeding brought under ch. 195, and
22 may issue an appropriate order.

23 **SECTION 22.** 88.66 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 88.66 (2) Every district whose drains cross the right-of-way of a railway
25 company is liable to such company for the reasonable cost of opening its right-of-way

1 and also for the cost of the culverts and bridges made necessary by such drain. The
2 drainage board shall include such costs in its cost of construction, as set forth in its
3 report of benefits and damages, and shall award them as damages to the railway
4 company. The bridge or culvert shall be designed by the district's engineer and the
5 design submitted to the railway company for approval. If a dispute arises as to the
6 adequacy of the design, either party may submit the dispute to the ~~office of the~~
7 ~~commissioner of railroads~~ division of hearings and appeals in the department of
8 administration by filing with the ~~office~~ division of hearings and appeals a statement
9 as to the facts involved and the nature of the dispute. The ~~office~~ division of hearings
10 and appeals shall ~~investigate and determine the matter in controversy in accordance~~
11 ~~with ch. 195, and any order it makes in such proceeding has the same effect as an~~
12 ~~order in any other proceeding properly brought under ch. 195.~~

13 **SECTION 23.** 88.87 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 88.87 (4) If a railway company fails to comply with sub. (2), any person
15 aggrieved thereby may file a complaint with the ~~office of the commissioner of~~
16 ~~railroads~~ division of hearings and appeals in the department of administration
17 setting forth the facts. The ~~office~~ division of hearings and appeals shall investigate
18 and determine the matter in controversy ~~in accordance with ch. 195, and any order~~
19 ~~it makes in such proceeding has the same effect as an order in any other proceeding~~
20 ~~properly brought under ch. 195.~~

21 **SECTION 24.** 88.88 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 88.88 (2) If the railway company fails to comply with sub. (1), the person
23 aggrieved thereby may file a complaint with the ~~office of the commissioner of~~
24 ~~railroads~~ division of hearings and appeals in the department of administration
25 setting forth the facts. The ~~office~~ division of hearings and appeals shall investigate

1 and determine the matter in controversy ~~in accordance with ch. 195, and any order~~
2 ~~it makes in such proceeding has the same effect as an order in any other proceeding~~
3 ~~properly brought under ch. 195.~~

4 **SECTION 25.** 182.36 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 182.36 (3) The corporation may enter into contracts with public utilities,
6 ~~including and~~ railroads, for the removal or change in location of the lines of such
7 public utilities and railroads where the same is deemed necessary by the corporation
8 in the construction of the project. Such contracts shall be for the payment of damages
9 caused the utilities and railroads by the relocation of their lines. In the event the
10 corporation and the utility or railroad are unable to reach an agreement, the public
11 service commission in the case of a utility or the department of transportation in the
12 case of a railroad shall direct the manner, location and time allowed for the change
13 in the utility or railroad line and the corporation shall be liable for the reasonable
14 costs of such change. In the event the public utility or railroad fails to comply with
15 the order of the public service commission or department of transportation it shall
16 be liable to the corporation for all damages occasioned by such failure.

17 **SECTION 26.** Chapter 189 of the statutes is repealed.

18 **SECTION 27.** 190.001 of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

19 **190.001 Definition.** In this chapter, “division of hearings and appeals” means
20 the division of hearings and appeals in the department of administration.

21 **SECTION 28.** 190.02 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 190.02 (6) RAILROAD INTERSECTIONS. To cross, intersect, join or unite its railroad
23 with any other railroad, at any point, with the necessary turnouts, sidings and
24 switches and other conveniences in furtherance of the objects of its connections. And
25 if the 2 corporations cannot agree upon the amount of compensation to be made

1 therefor or the points and manner of such crossings and connections the same shall
2 be ascertained by the ~~office~~ division of hearings and appeals on application of either
3 corporation.

4 **SECTION 29.** 190.025 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 190.025 (2) (b) A railroad corporation that is subject to this subsection shall
6 have all powers conferred by law upon railroad corporations. The railroad
7 corporation may issue, sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of its evidences of debt, at
8 such times, in such amounts, for such considerations and upon such terms and
9 conditions as the board of directors of the corporation shall determine, and as shall
10 be authorized by the ~~office~~ department of financial institutions, or the interstate
11 commerce commission in the case of a railroad corporation organized for the purpose
12 of acquiring a railroad engaged in interstate commerce, or any existing railroad
13 corporation reorganized under the act and acquiring railroad property used in
14 interstate commerce. The evidences of debt may be convertible, at the option of the
15 holder, into stock, and shares of stock. The shares may have a nominal or par value
16 or, if the shares are shares of common stock, be without nominal or par value. The
17 shares may be of such classes, with such rights and voting powers as may be
18 expressed in the corporation's articles or any amendment thereto.

19 **SECTION 30.** 190.03 of the statutes is amended to read:

20 **190.03 Office in state; books produced.** Any railroad corporation existing
21 under the laws of this state shall produce before the ~~office of the commissioner of~~
22 railroads department of financial institutions, the legislature, or any committee of
23 either house, or any court of record, its books of account and stock books, or so many
24 and such parts thereof as may be required by them, or in the discretion of the ~~office~~
25 ~~of the commissioner of railroads~~ department of financial institutions, legislature,

1 committee or court, transcripts from such books, or such parts thereof as may be
2 called for, duly authenticated; and each such railroad corporation shall designate
3 some office within this state as its principal office and inform the ~~office of the~~
4 ~~commissioner of railroads~~ department of financial institutions of such designation,
5 and shall keep there or at the office of its transfer agents or registrars a list of its
6 stockholders, giving the names and addresses of its stockholders, together with a
7 statement of the number and class of shares of its stock held by each of them, as
8 shown by its books. A failure or refusal to comply with any of the foregoing provisions
9 shall be cause of forfeiture of its franchises.

10 SECTION 31. 190.13 of the statutes is amended to read:

11 **190.13 Report to stockholders.** Every railroad corporation shall make an
12 annual report to its stockholders of its operations for the preceding calendar year, or
13 for its fiscal year, as the case may be, which report shall contain a balance sheet
14 showing its assets and liabilities, its capital stock, and funded debt, and an income
15 account showing its operating revenues, operating expenses, gross and net income,
16 as the result of its traffic or business operations, and such other information in
17 respect of its affairs as the board of directors shall deem advisable. A copy of each
18 such report shall be kept on file in its principal office in this state, shall be mailed
19 to each stockholder whose post-office address is known and shall be filed with the
20 ~~office of the commissioner of railroads~~ department of financial institutions.

21 SECTION 32. 190.16 (4) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 190.16 (4) (a) Every railroad shall acquire the necessary right-of-way for and
23 shall construct, connect, maintain and operate a reasonably adequate spur track
24 whenever such spur track does not necessarily exceed 3 miles in length, is practically
25 indispensable to the successful operation of any existing or proposed industry or

1 enterprise, and its construction and operation is not unusually dangerous, and is not
2 unreasonably harmful to public interest, and any person aggrieved by the failure of
3 any railroad to fully perform such obligation may prosecute proceedings before the
4 office division of hearings and appeals to compel compliance therewith.

5 **SECTION 33.** 190.16 (4) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 190.16 (4) (b) Such railroad may require the person primarily to be served
7 thereby to pay the legitimate cost and expense of acquiring the necessary
8 right-of-way for such spur track, and of constructing the same, the cost to be
9 estimated in separate items by the ~~office~~ department of transportation or the division
10 of hearings and appeals, and deposited with the railroad, before it shall be required
11 to incur any expense whatever therefor; but such person, in lieu of depositing the
12 total estimated cost may offer in writing to construct such spur track, the offer to be
13 accompanied by a surety company bond, running to such railroad, and conditioned
14 upon the construction of such spur track in a good and workmanlike manner,
15 according to the plans and specifications of such railroad, approved by the ~~office~~
16 department of transportation or the division of hearings and appeals, and deposit
17 with such railroad the estimated cost of the necessary right-of-way. Provided that
18 before the railroad shall be required to incur any expense whatever in the
19 construction of such spur track, the person primarily to be served thereby shall give
20 the railroad a bond to be approved by the ~~office~~ department of transportation or the
21 division of hearings and appeals as to form, amount and surety, securing the railroad
22 against loss on account of any expense incurred beyond the estimated cost.

23 **SECTION 34.** 190.16 (4) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 190.16 (4) (c) Whenever a spur track is so constructed at the expense of the
25 owner of any industry or enterprise, and any other person shall desire a connection

1 with such spur track, application therefor shall be made to the ~~office~~ department of
2 transportation or the division of hearings and appeals, and such other person shall
3 be required to pay to such owner an equitable proportion of the cost thereof, to be
4 determined by the ~~office~~ department of transportation or the division of hearings and
5 appeals.

6 **SECTION 35.** 190.16 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 190.16 (5) REMOVAL, WHEN. Except where a spur track was constructed prior
8 to June 16, 1925, at the expense of the railroad company, no spur track shall be
9 removed, dismantled or otherwise rendered unfit for service except upon order of the
10 ~~office~~ department of transportation or the division of hearings and appeals made
11 after hearing held upon notice to all parties interested, and for good cause shown;
12 provided that if no objection has been filed with the ~~office~~ department of
13 transportation or the division of hearings and appeals within 20 days from the
14 original publication of such notice, the ~~office~~ department of transportation or the
15 division of hearings and appeals may without hearing authorize such spur track
16 removed, dismantled or otherwise rendered unfit for service.

17 **SECTION 36.** 191.001 of the statutes is amended to read:

18 **191.001 Definition.** In this chapter, “~~office~~” “department” means the ~~office of~~
19 ~~the commissioner of railroads~~ department of transportation.

20 **SECTION 37.** 191.01 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 191.01 (2) CONSTRUCTION, CERTIFICATE FROM ~~OFFICE~~ DEPARTMENT PREREQUISITE.
22 No railroad corporation shall begin the construction of any proposed line of railroad
23 in this state until it shall have obtained from the ~~office~~ department a certificate that
24 ~~public convenience and a necessity require~~ authorizing the construction of the

1 railroad, and the certificate shall constitute the license from this state to the
2 company to build its proposed railroad.

3 **SECTION 38.** 191.02 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 **191.02 (title) Application for certificate of necessity.**

5 **SECTION 39.** 191.03 of the statutes is amended to read:

6 **191.03 Articles; publication prerequisite to certificate.** No railroad
7 corporation shall make application for a certificate authorizing construction of a
8 railroad unless it has caused a copy of its corporate articles to be published as a class
9 2 notice, under ch. 985, in each county in which the railroad is proposed to be located
10 within 6 months next prior to the time of making such application, and files
11 satisfactory proof thereof with the ~~office~~ department.

12 **SECTION 40.** 191.05 of the statutes is amended to read:

13 **191.05 Maps and profiles with application; changes.** Complete maps and
14 profiles of the proposed railroad shall be filed with the application for a certificate
15 ~~of convenience and necessity~~ authorizing construction. The ~~office~~ department may
16 permit errors, omissions or defects in the application, maps and profiles to be
17 supplied or corrected, and permit changes in the proposed route to be made.

18 **SECTION 41.** 191.06 of the statutes is amended to read:

19 **191.06 Railroad extensions; certificate and notice necessary.** If any
20 railroad company organized prior to July 1, 1907, shall desire to extend its lines in
21 this state or to build branches connected therewith, or to construct any portion of its
22 authorized line of railroad, it shall, before beginning construction thereof, obtain a
23 certificate ~~of convenience and necessity~~ authorizing the construction; but it shall not
24 be necessary to publish the articles of such railroad.

25 **SECTION 42.** 191.07 of the statutes is amended to read:

1 **191.07 Hearing of applicants; notice.** Upon receiving such an application
 2 for a certificate authorizing construction, the ~~office shall~~ department may set a time
 3 and place for a hearing, which time shall not be less than 3 weeks nor more than 8
 4 weeks from the date of filing the application, and the place shall be at the city of
 5 Madison, or at some place along the line of the proposed railroad, if the ~~office~~
 6 department deems the latter more convenient, and. If the department sets a hearing,
 7 the department shall give to the applicant notice thereof, which notice shall be
 8 published by the applicant, as a class 2 notice, under ch. 985, in each county in which
 9 the railroad, extension or branch is proposed to be located, and proof of such
 10 publication shall be filed with the ~~office~~ department.

11 **SECTION 43.** 191.09 of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

12 **191.09 Procedures before the department.** Chapter 227 applies to all
 13 proceedings under this chapter.

14 **SECTION 44.** 191.10 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 **191.10 (title) Certificate of necessity.**

16 **SECTION 45.** 191.10 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 **191.10 (1) ISSUANCE, FILING, RECORDING, CONDEMNATION.** If the ~~office of the~~
 18 ~~commissioner of railroads finds that the proposed railroad would be a public~~
 19 ~~convenience and that a necessity requires its construction, the office of the~~
 20 ~~commissioner of railroads shall enter an order to that effect and issue~~ department
 21 issues to the applicant a certificate ~~that public convenience and a necessity require~~
 22 ~~the construction of the railroad as proposed. The certificate shall be filed in the office~~
 23 ~~of the department of financial institutions and the department of financial~~
 24 ~~institutions~~ under this chapter, the applicant shall file the certificate with the
 25 department of financial institutions. The department of transportation shall

1 approve the map showing the route of the railroad. The applicant shall record the
2 map certified by the ~~office of the commissioner of railroads~~ department of
3 transportation in the office of the register of deeds in each county in which the
4 railroad shall be located. The filing of the certificate with the department of financial
5 institutions and the recording of the map, as above provided, are conditions
6 precedent to the right of the applicant to institute condemnation proceedings.

7 **SECTION 46.** 191.10 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 191.10 (2) CERTIFICATE FOR PART OF LINE. ~~Whenever it shall appear to the office~~
9 ~~that public convenience and a necessity do not require the construction of the~~
10 ~~railroad as proposed in the application, but do require the construction of a part~~
11 ~~thereof, the office~~ The department may issue a certificate for the construction of such
12 part of the railroad as ~~public convenience and necessity require~~ proposed in the
13 application.

14 **SECTION 47.** 191.10 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 191.10 (3) REFUSAL OF CERTIFICATE; RENEWAL OF APPLICATION. If the ~~office shall~~
16 ~~determine that the proposed railroad is not a necessity or is not required by public~~
17 ~~convenience, the office shall by order refuse to grant a certificate, department denies~~
18 the application for a certificate, the department shall issue an order refusing the
19 certificate and stating the reasons for the refusal. The application may be renewed
20 after 2 years from the date of the refusal, but not sooner.

21 **SECTION 48.** 191.11 of the statutes is amended to read:

22 **191.11 Revocation of certificate.** If any railroad company after obtaining
23 a certificate ~~that public convenience and a necessity require~~ authorizing the
24 construction of the whole or part of its railroad fails to begin construction within one
25 year from the date of the certificate, or having begun such construction, fails to

1 prosecute the same, the ~~office~~ department may inquire into the reasons for such
2 failure and may revoke the certificate, if the ~~office~~ department finds, after notice and
3 hearing, that such failure is unreasonable.

4 **SECTION 49.** 191.13 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 191.13 (2) No railroad corporation shall exercise such power until it has
6 obtained from the ~~office~~ department a certificate ~~that public convenience and~~
7 ~~necessity require~~ authorizing the construction of the temporary railroad, ~~and the~~
8 ~~certificate shall constitute the license to the company to build its proposed temporary~~
9 ~~railroad.~~ The certificate shall specify the length of time the railroad may be
10 maintained and operated, and may be renewed from time to time upon application
11 by the railroad company. At the expiration of the time specified in the certificate, or
12 any renewal thereof, the railroad company shall discontinue, dismantle and remove
13 the temporary railroad; and may prior to the expiration of such time, upon order of
14 the ~~office~~ department, and after a hearing, upon notice to all parties interested and
15 good cause shown, discontinue, dismantle and remove the railroad.

16 **SECTION 50.** 191.16 of the statutes is amended to read:

17 **191.16 Construction items submitted to ~~office~~ department.** Upon
18 receiving the certificate ~~of public convenience and necessity~~ authorizing
19 construction, the applicant shall before commencing construction submit to the ~~office~~
20 department a condensed specification of the character of construction that the
21 applicant proposes to install, showing the kind, quality and weight of the rail
22 proposed to be used, the mode of construction, character, quality, and strength of all
23 bridges, culverts and viaducts, the abutments and approaches proposed to be built,
24 the grade of and proposed method of draining the roadbed, and the kind of power to
25 be used and the plant and appliances to be employed in power production, and such

1 other facts relating to the construction of the proposed railroad as the ~~office~~
2 department requires.

3 **SECTION 51.** 191.17 of the statutes is amended to read:

4 **191.17 Public safety; investigation; approval of plans.** Upon receiving
5 the specification required by s. 191.16, the ~~office~~ department shall examine the same
6 and shall hear the applicant in support thereof, shall suggest and require
7 modifications of the specification if the public safety so demands, eliminating so far
8 as may be practicable, consistent with reasonable cost, all grade crossings of public
9 highways, shall inspect the route of the proposed railroad if deemed desirable, and
10 shall otherwise investigate and determine that the proposed construction will be
11 adequate for securing public safety in the operation of the railroad, and thereupon
12 the ~~office~~ department shall enter an order approving the specification and
13 authorizing the construction of the railroad in accordance therewith.

14 **SECTION 52.** 191.19 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 **191.19 (1)** Upon the completion of the construction of any railroad under the
16 approved specification, the company shall, before operating the same for public
17 service, report to the ~~office~~ department; and the ~~office~~ department shall inspect the
18 work. If the ~~office~~ department finds that the railroad has been constructed in
19 accordance with the approved specification and is otherwise suitable and properly
20 constructed so as to secure public safety in the operation thereof, the ~~office~~
21 department shall enter an order authorizing its operation, which order shall be
22 presumptive evidence of the sufficiency of such construction.

23 **SECTION 53.** 191.19 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 **191.19 (3)** If upon inspection the ~~office~~ department shall deem that public
25 safety requires the installation, operation and maintenance of some protective

1 appliance at any grade crossing of railroad tracks the ~~office~~ department may, before
2 granting the order, after notice and hearing, require the installation, operation and
3 maintenance of suitable protective appliances, and shall apportion the expense of
4 constructing, maintaining and operating such protective appliances among the
5 owners of the tracks.

6 **SECTION 54.** 191.20 of the statutes is amended to read:

7 **191.20 Railroad routes; right to alter.** Every railroad company may, by the
8 vote of two-thirds of its directors, alter or change the route of its railroad, by making
9 and filing with the ~~office of the commissioner of railroads~~ department and the
10 department of financial institutions and also by recording in the office of the register
11 of deeds of the county or counties where the alteration or change is to be made, a
12 surveyed map and certificate of the alteration or change. The alteration or change
13 may not deviate from the original route for a greater distance than one mile at any
14 point. No city or village may be left off the railroad by the change of route. The
15 original end points of the railroad, or the route in any city or village, shall not be
16 changed without the approval of the ~~office of the commissioner of railroads~~
17 department of transportation after notice to the municipality.

18 **SECTION 55.** 191.21 of the statutes is amended to read:

19 **191.21 Notices in counties without newspapers.** If no newspaper is
20 published in any county in which a railroad is proposed to be located, the publications
21 required by this chapter may be made in such manner and at such places as the ~~office~~
22 department shall designate.

23 **SECTION 56.** 192.001 (1r) of the statutes is created to read:

24 **192.001 (1r)** “Division of hearings and appeals” means the division of hearings
25 and appeals in the department of administration.

1 **SECTION 57.** 192.001 (2) of the statutes is repealed.

2 **SECTION 58.** 192.14 (10) of the statutes is amended to read:

3 192.14 (10) If in any particular case any temporary exemption from any
4 requirement of this section is deemed necessary by a carrier, the ~~office~~ department
5 shall consider the application of the carrier for temporary exemption and may grant
6 the exemption when accompanied by a full statement of the conditions existing and
7 the reasons for the exemption. Any exemption so granted will be limited to the
8 particular case specified and shall be limited to a stated period of time.

9 **SECTION 59.** 192.14 (12) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 192.14 (12) The ~~office~~ department may after public hearing make rules and
11 establish the standards deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

12 **SECTION 60.** 192.15 (14) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 192.15 (14) If in any particular case any exemption from any requirement of
14 this section is deemed necessary by a carrier, the ~~office~~ department shall consider the
15 application of the carrier for exemption and may grant the exemption when
16 accompanied by a full statement of the conditions existing and the reasons for the
17 exemption. Any exemption so granted shall be limited to the particular case specified
18 and shall be limited to a stated period of time.

19 **SECTION 61.** 192.25 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 192.25 (3) (a) The ~~office~~ department, by rule, may grant an exception to sub.
21 (2) if the ~~office~~ department determines that the exception will not endanger the life
22 or property of any person.

23 **SECTION 62.** 192.27 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 192.27 (1) When the track of a railway corporation crosses the track of any
25 other railway corporation at grade, or when their tracks and right-of-way are

1 adjacent, except in counties having a population of at least 150,000, the corporations
2 shall, within 60 days after a written request of the ~~office~~ department or the council
3 or board of the city, town or village within which the tracks so cross or are adjacent,
4 make a track connection within such town, city or village to afford reasonable and
5 proper facilities for the interchange of traffic between their respective lines for
6 forwarding and delivering freight, and the expense thereof shall be borne equally by
7 those corporations, unless otherwise ordered by the ~~office~~ department.

8 **SECTION 63.** 192.29 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 192.29 (1) SETTING MAXIMUM SPEED. Upon petition to the ~~office~~ department by
10 the governing body of any city or village or by any railroad corporation alleging that
11 any railroad crossing of one or more public highways or streets in the city or village
12 is dangerous to human life and that public safety requires a designation of the
13 maximum speed of a train over such crossing or crossings, or that an order previously
14 made by the ~~office~~ department or, prior to the effective date of this subsection
15 [revisor inserts date], by the office of the commissioner of transportation under ch.
16 195, 1991 stats., or the office of the commissioner of railroads under ch. 195, 2001
17 stats., should be modified, the ~~office~~ department shall give notice to the parties in
18 interest and order a hearing thereon in the manner provided by s. 195.04 under ch.
19 227. If after the hearing the ~~office shall determine~~ department determines that the
20 crossing or crossings described in the petition are dangerous to human life, it may
21 by order determine what maximum speed of a train over the crossing is reasonably
22 required by public safety and is consistent with the public need for adequate and
23 expeditious passenger and freight service by railroad, having due regard for other
24 orders entered by the ~~office~~ department, or, prior to the effective date of this
25 subsection [revisor inserts date], by the office of the commissioner of

1 transportation or the office of the commissioner of railroads, and to practical railroad
2 operating conditions. Where the ~~office~~ department has designated the maximum
3 speed of any train or trains over such crossing or crossings, or, prior to the effective
4 date of this subsection [revisor inserts date], the office of the commissioner of
5 transportation or the office of the commissioner of railroads has designated the
6 maximum speed of any train or trains over such crossing or crossings and the
7 designation remains unmodified by the department, the rate of speed shall be the
8 lawful maximum speed at which any train affected by the order can be operated over
9 the public highway or street crossing, until changed by subsequent order of the ~~office~~
10 department. Every railroad corporation violating any order entered under this
11 subsection shall for every violation forfeit not less than \$10 nor more than \$100. The
12 jurisdiction over train speeds hereby vested in the ~~office~~ department shall be
13 exclusive, but any order entered by the ~~office~~ department hereunder shall be subject
14 to judicial review in the manner provided by ch. 227.

15 **SECTION 64.** 192.29 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 192.29 (2) ARTERIAL STOP SIGNS. In any proceeding under sub. (1) or under s.
17 195.28, the ~~office~~ department may by order require that the state or municipality
18 install at any crossing involved in such proceeding an official stop sign.

19 **SECTION 65.** 192.29 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 192.29 (4) HIGHWAYS, WHISTLE, HORN, BELL. No railroad train or locomotive shall
21 run over any public traveled grade highway crossing outside of the limits of
22 municipalities unless the whistle or horn shall be blown 1,320 feet from such crossing
23 and the engine bell rung continuously from thence until the crossing be reached. But
24 the ~~office~~ department may order that the ringing of the bell or the blowing of the

1 whistle, or horn, or both, as required by this subsection shall be omitted at any
2 crossing.

3 **SECTION 66.** 192.29 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 192.29 (5) DANGER SIGNS. Wherever its track crosses a public highway or street,
5 every railroad corporation shall maintain on each side of the track and near such
6 crossing a ~~large signboard with the following inscription, painted in large letters:~~
7 ~~“Railroad Crossing,” in such manner as to be visible to approaching traffic on the~~
8 ~~highway or street at least 100 feet distant~~ railroad crossing sign. The sign shall be
9 constructed and erected as provided in the manual adopted by the department under
10 s. 84.02 (4) (e).

11 **SECTION 67.** 192.31 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 192.31 (1) Every railroad corporation shall maintain suitable telltales
13 wherever any overhead structure or any part thereof is less than 23 feet above the
14 top of rail; except that if the ~~office~~ department finds that the installation of a telltale
15 at any particular place would be impracticable or would result in an increased
16 hazard to either the public or an employee and that either or both such factors
17 outweigh the safety benefit which would result from the installation of a telltale, the
18 ~~office~~ department may enter an order providing an exemption from this section. The
19 exemption shall be ordered by the ~~office~~ department only after public hearing under
20 sub. (4).

21 **SECTION 68.** 192.31 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 192.31 (2) The ~~office~~ department may determine the materials for and the
23 construction and placing of such telltales.

24 **SECTION 69.** 192.31 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

1 192.31 (4) Upon finding that any such structure will not imperil life or limb,
2 and that the public interest requires or permits such structure to be constructed or
3 reconstructed otherwise than as permitted by sub. (3), the ~~office~~ department may
4 exempt such structure from such provision. Such findings shall be made only upon
5 written application, setting forth fully the grounds therefor and shall be made only
6 after public hearing. The findings and order granting exemption shall be in writing
7 and contain complete provisions and requirements as to the vertical clearance to be
8 maintained in such construction or reconstruction. Such structure shall be
9 constructed or reconstructed only in compliance with such order.

10 **SECTION 70.** 192.31 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 192.31 (5) Prior to July 1, in each year every corporation operating a railroad
12 within the state shall file with the ~~office~~ department a verified statement showing
13 the location of every such bridge or other structure over any of its tracks at a height
14 of less than 23 feet above the top of rail, together with a statement showing whether
15 or not the provisions of this section have been fully complied with.

16 **SECTION 71.** 192.324 of the statutes is amended to read:

17 **192.324 Railroad bridges to be safe for employees.** Whenever a complaint
18 is lodged with the ~~office~~ department by any person to the effect that a railroad bridge
19 because of its style of construction does not have walks or railings and for that reason
20 is dangerous to the life and limb of railroad employees and the safety of such
21 employees requires the alteration so as to provide for such walks and railings of such
22 bridge, the ~~office~~ department shall give notice to the party in interest, other than the
23 complainant, of the filing of the complaint and furnish such party with a copy thereof,
24 and order a hearing thereon, ~~in the manner provided for hearings in s. 195.31.~~ The
25 office under s. 85.013 (3) and ch. 227 by the division of hearings and appeals. The

1 department may proceed in a similar manner in the absence of a complaint when,
2 in the opinion of the ~~office~~ department, the safety of railroad employees requires the
3 alteration of a railroad bridge. After the hearing, the ~~office~~ division of hearings and
4 appeals shall determine what alteration, if any, of such bridge, shall be made. The
5 expense of such alteration shall be borne by the railroad company.

6 **SECTION 72.** 192.327 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 192.327 (3) The ~~office~~ department shall make and enforce reasonable rules
8 relating to motor vehicles used to transport workers to and from their places of
9 employment or during the course of their employment.

10 **SECTION 73.** 192.327 (4) of the statutes is repealed.

11 **SECTION 74.** 192.327 (5) of the statutes is repealed.

12 **SECTION 75.** 192.327 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 192.327 (6) The ~~office~~ department may, in enforcing the rules, inspect any
14 motor vehicle used to transport workers to and from their places of employment or
15 during the course of their employment. ~~Upon request of the office, the department~~
16 ~~shall direct its traffic officers to assist the office in those inspections.~~

17 **SECTION 76.** 192.327 (7) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 192.327 (7) Whenever the ~~office~~ department finds that a motor vehicle used to
19 transport workers to and from their places of employment or during the course of
20 their employment violates any provision of the rules, the ~~office~~ department shall
21 make, enter and serve upon the owner of the motor vehicle such order as may be
22 necessary to protect the safety of workers transported in the motor vehicle.

23 **SECTION 77.** 192.33 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

1 192.33 (5) The maintenance of cattle guards may be omitted by the railroad
2 company with the written consent of the ~~office~~ department specifying the particular
3 crossings.

4 **SECTION 78.** 192.34 of the statutes is amended to read:

5 **192.34 Fences; complaint of insufficient; hearing; order.** Upon
6 complaint to the division of hearings and appeals by the owner or occupant of any
7 land contiguous to the right-of-way of any railroad that the railroad company
8 operating the line has failed to construct or keep in good repair fences along its
9 right-of-way opposite to the complainant's land as required under s. 192.33, the
10 ~~office~~ division of hearings and appeals shall proceed on the complaint in the manner
11 provided ~~in s. 195.04~~ under ch. 227. If it shall appear that the complaint is well
12 founded, the ~~office~~ division of hearings and appeals may order and direct the railroad
13 company to repair the complained of fences so that the fences will be sufficient or to
14 construct legal fences.

15 **SECTION 79.** 192.47 of the statutes is amended to read:

16 **192.47 Railroad police; oath; powers.** Any railway company may, at its own
17 expense, appoint and employ railroad police officers at the stations or other places
18 on the line of its road within this state as it deems necessary for the protection of its
19 property and the preservation of order on its premises and in and about its cars,
20 depots, depot grounds, yards, buildings or other structures. Each police officer shall
21 take an oath to support the constitution of the United States and claiming to be a
22 citizen of the United States and shall file it with the ~~office~~ department. Each police
23 officer shall, when on duty, wear a shield furnished by the company bearing the
24 words "Railroad Police" and the name of the company. These police officers may
25 arrest, with or without warrant, any person who in their presence commits upon the

1 premises of the company or in or about its cars, depots, depot grounds, yards,
2 buildings or other structures any offense against the laws of this state or the
3 ordinances of any town, city or village, and shall also have the authority of sheriffs
4 in regard to the arrest or apprehension of these offenders in or about the premises
5 or appurtenances. In case of the arrest, by a railroad police officer, of any person
6 without warrant the officer shall immediately take the offender before a judge
7 having jurisdiction and make complaint against the offender. Every railway
8 company shall be responsible for the acts of its police officers.

9 **SECTION 80.** 192.52 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 192.52 (3) No railroad company operating in this state shall remove its shops
11 from the place where the same are now located to any other point within or without
12 this state or permanently close any shops in this state without first having secured
13 ~~the consent and permission of the office~~ an order for such removal from the division
14 of hearings and appeals, after due notice and public hearing, and in all other respects
15 as provided for hearings in ch. 195 227. ~~The office~~ division of hearings and appeals
16 shall render its decision within 30 days after such hearing.

17 **SECTION 81.** 192.52 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 192.52 (4) No railroad company operating in this state shall remove or transfer
19 its terminals or permanently close any terminals in this state without ~~the permission~~
20 ~~or consent of the office~~ an order for such removal, transfer or closing from the division
21 of hearings and appeals after due hearing had on the matter, in compliance with ch.
22 195 227.

23 **SECTION 82.** 192.52 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 192.52 (5) Before any railroad company operating in this state shall make any
25 removal or transfer of shops or terminals or abandons the same, it shall file notice

1 of intention so to do with the ~~office~~ division of hearings and appeals, and the ~~office~~
2 division of hearings and appeals shall have the power to investigate whether such
3 proposed removal, transfer or abandonment, as the case may be, is in the public
4 interest and is not unreasonable or unfair as to the employees of such railroad
5 company. No such removal or transfer shall be made during such investigation, or
6 thereafter, if the ~~office~~ division of hearings and appeals finds such removal, transfer
7 or abandonment is not in the public interest or is unreasonable or unfair as to the
8 employees of such railroad.

9 **SECTION 83.** 192.53 (4) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 192.53 (4) (a) Upon finding that any structure that is subject to the provisions
11 of this section will not imperil life or limb, and that the public interest requires or
12 permits the structure to be constructed or reconstructed otherwise than as permitted
13 by the provisions of this section, the ~~office~~ department may exempt the structure
14 from the provisions of this section.

15 **SECTION 84.** 192.53 (4) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 192.53 (4) (b) The ~~office~~ department shall make the findings described in par.
17 (a) only upon written application to it to exempt the construction or reconstruction
18 of a structure from the requirements of this section, setting forth fully the grounds
19 therefor, and only after public hearing. The ~~office's~~ department's findings and order
20 granting the exemption shall be in writing and shall contain complete provisions and
21 requirements as to the horizontal clearance to be maintained in the construction or
22 reconstruction. The structure shall be constructed or reconstructed only in
23 compliance with the ^{plain space} ~~office's~~ department's order.

24 **SECTION 85.** 192.53 (5) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

1 192.53 (5) (a) (intro.) Except as otherwise provided in this section and subject
2 to the power of the ~~office~~ department to make exceptions to this section in a manner
3 similar to the power given it in sub. (4), no railroad or shipper may do any of the
4 following:

5 **SECTION 86.** 192.53 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 192.53 (6) Any railroad or shipper to which this section applies, who violates
7 any provision of this section or who fails, neglects or refuses to obey any lawful order
8 made by the ~~office~~ department under this section, shall be fined not more than \$100
9 or imprisoned for not more than 60 days or both.

10 **SECTION 87.** 192.55 (5) of the statutes is repealed.

11 **SECTION 88.** 192.56 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 192.56 (1) It is unlawful for any railroad company owning or operating any
13 railroad in whole or in part in this state, to abandon any station in any town, village
14 or city on its line of railroad, within this state, or to remove the depot therefrom, or
15 to withdraw agency service therefrom, without first obtaining from the ~~office~~ division
16 of hearings and appeals an order authorizing such action.

17 **SECTION 89.** 192.56 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 192.56 (2) At a station where agency service is provided the application to the
19 ~~office~~ division of hearings and appeals for such authorizing order shall set forth the
20 facts showing the necessity for such action by the railroad company, and if the ~~office~~
21 division of hearings and appeals finds that the application is sufficient
22 presumptively to justify the order prayed for, it shall enter an order fixing the time
23 and place of hearing on the application, which time shall not be less than 20 days
24 after the posting provided for in sub. (3).

25 **SECTION 90.** 192.56 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

1 192.56 (3) Notice of the time and place of the hearing and of the purpose thereof
2 shall be given, by the ~~office~~ division of hearings and appeals, by posting the notice
3 in 5 conspicuous places in the town or village.

4 **SECTION 91.** 192.56 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 192.56 (5) The hearing shall be held as other hearings before the ~~office~~ division
6 of hearings and appeals are held as far as applicable. The ~~office~~ division of hearings
7 and appeals may dismiss the application or may grant it in whole or in part and under
8 such conditions as it may deem equitable.

9 **SECTION 92.** 192.56 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 192.56 (6) At a station where no agency service is provided, the application to
11 the ~~office~~ division of hearings and appeals for such authorizing order shall set forth
12 the facts showing the necessity for such action by the railroad company. Notice of
13 proposed removal or abandonment shall be given by the ~~office~~ division of hearings
14 and appeals by posting notice in 5 conspicuous places in the town or village
15 concerned; and if within 20 days after the posting of notice no objections in writing
16 are filed with the ~~office~~ division of hearings and appeals by persons directly affected,
17 an order authorizing the abandonment of the station may be issued by the ~~office~~
18 division of hearings and appeals. If such objections to the granting of the order are
19 filed with the ~~office~~ division of hearings and appeals, the ~~office~~ division of hearings
20 and appeals shall proceed to hold a hearing in the matter as provided in subs. (4) and
21 (5).

22 **SECTION 93.** 195.001 (1r) of the statutes is created to read:

23 195.001 (1r) “Division of hearings and appeals” means the division of hearings
24 and appeals in the department of administration.

25 **SECTION 94.** 195.001 (2) of the statutes is repealed.

1 **SECTION 95.** 195.001 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

2 195.001 (3) “Secretary” means the secretary of transportation.

3 **SECTION 96.** 195.03 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 **195.03** (title) **Office Department; powers and duties, general**
5 **enumeration.**

6 **SECTION 97.** 195.03 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 195.03 (1) PRACTICE RULES. The ~~office~~ department may take testimony and
8 administer oaths and may promulgate rules to govern its proceedings and to regulate
9 the mode and manner of all hearings. All hearings shall be open to the public.

10 **SECTION 98.** 195.03 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 195.03 (2) ~~OFFICE~~ DEPARTMENT INITIATIVE. In any matter within its jurisdiction
12 under ch. 192 or this chapter, the ~~office~~ department may initiate, investigate and
13 order a hearing at its discretion upon such notice as it considers proper.

14 **SECTION 99.** 195.03 (7) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 195.03 (7) STUDY CARRIER BUSINESS, DEMAND INFORMATION. The ~~office~~
16 department may inquire into the management of the business of all railroads, and
17 shall keep itself informed as to the manner in which the same is conducted, and may
18 obtain from any railroad all necessary information to enable the ~~office~~ department
19 to perform the duties and carry out the objects for which it is responsible.

20 **SECTION 100.** 195.03 (8) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 195.03 (8) QUESTIONNAIRES, ANSWERS COMPULSORY. The ~~office~~ department shall
22 prepare forms for the purpose of obtaining the information which it may deem
23 necessary or useful to the proper exercise of its functions, which shall conform as
24 nearly as practicable to the forms prescribed by the interstate commerce
25 commission, and shall furnish the forms to railroads, and every railroad receiving

1 the forms shall cause the forms to be properly completed and verified under oath by
2 its proper officer and returned to the ~~office~~ department within the time fixed by the
3 ~~office~~ department.

4 **SECTION 101.** 195.03 (9) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 195.03 (9) EXAMINE BOOKS AND FILES OF CARRIERS. ~~The commissioner of railroads~~
6 ~~secretary~~ or any person employed by the ~~office~~ department for that purpose shall,
7 upon demand, have the right to inspect the books and papers of any railroad and to
8 examine under oath any officer, agent or employee of such railroad in relation to its
9 business and affairs; provided that any person other ~~that~~ than the ~~commissioner of~~
10 ~~railroads~~ secretary who makes such demand shall produce his or her authority under
11 the hand and seal of the ~~office~~ secretary.

12 **SECTION 102.** 195.03 (10) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 195.03 (10) PRODUCTION OF RECORDS AND FILES KEPT OUT OF STATE. The ~~office~~
14 ~~department~~ may, by an order or subpoena to be served in the manner that a circuit
15 court summons is served, require the production within this state, at such time and
16 place as it may designate, of any books, papers or accounts kept by any railroad
17 without the state, or verified copies in lieu thereof, if the ~~office~~ department shall so
18 order.

19 **SECTION 103.** 195.03 (11) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 195.03 (11) UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTING. The ~~office~~ department may
21 prescribe a uniform system of keeping and rendering accounts of all railroad
22 business transacted in this state, and the time within which railroads shall adopt
23 such system; provided that all forms of accounts which may be prescribed by the
24 ~~office~~ department shall conform as nearly as practicable to similar forms prescribed
25 by federal authority.

1 **SECTION 104.** 195.03 (12) of the statutes is repealed.

2 **SECTION 105.** 195.03 (13) of the statutes is repealed.

3 **SECTION 106.** 195.03 (14) of the statutes is repealed.

4 **SECTION 107.** 195.03 (15) of the statutes is repealed.

5 **SECTION 108.** 195.03 (16) of the statutes is repealed.

6 **SECTION 109.** 195.03 (17) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 195.03 (17) PRIVATE TRACKS. The ~~office~~ department shall have control of private
8 railroad tracks insofar as the same are used by common carriers for the
9 transportation of freight, in all respects the same as though such tracks were part
10 of a public railroad.

11 **SECTION 110.** 195.03 (18) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 195.03 (18) SAFETY DEVICES. The ~~office~~ department may make reasonable rules,
13 regulations, specifications and standards for the installation, operation and
14 maintenance of all safety devices and measures.

15 **SECTION 111.** 195.03 (19) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 195.03 (19) RAILROAD STRUCTURES. The ~~office~~ department may order the repair
17 or reconstruction of any inadequate or unsafe railroad track or structure.

18 **SECTION 112.** 195.03 (25) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 195.03 (25) DISTRIBUTION OF ORDERS. The ~~office~~ department shall upon
20 application furnish certified copies, under its seal, of any order made by it, which
21 shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein.

22 **SECTION 113.** 195.03 (28) of the statutes is amended to read:

23 195.03 (28) LEGAL ACTIONS. The ~~office may sue and be sued in that name, and~~
24 department may confer with or participate in any proceedings before any regulatory
25 agency of any other state or of the federal government.

1 **SECTION 114.** 195.03 (29) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 195.03 (29) TRAIN PRIVILEGES. The employees authorized by the office
3 department to perform railroad inspection duties may, in the performance of such
4 duties, ride in and upon any engine, car or train of any class, of any railroad, upon
5 payment of the lawful passenger fare, but such railroad shall not thereby be deemed
6 to become a common carrier of passengers other than on passenger cars.

7 **SECTION 115.** 195.03 (30) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 195.03 (30) (a) The office department shall give testimony at the hearing under
9 s. 350.138 (4) (b), or shall submit a written report for introduction into the hearing
10 record, on the factors stated in s. 350.138 (4) (d) 1., 2., 3., and 4.

11 **SECTION 116.** 195.03 (30) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 195.03 (30) (b) The office department shall give the department of natural
13 resources the office's department's opinion on whether the snowmobile crossing
14 should be closed or removed in testimony at the hearing under s. 350.1395 (2) (b) 2.
15 or in a written report for introduction into the hearing record.

16 **SECTION 117.** 195.04 of the statutes is repealed.

17 **SECTION 118.** 195.041 of the statutes is repealed.

18 **SECTION 119.** 195.042 of the statutes is repealed.

19 **SECTION 120.** 195.043 of the statutes is repealed.

20 **SECTION 121.** 195.044 of the statutes is repealed.

21 **SECTION 122.** 195.045 of the statutes is repealed.

22 **SECTION 123.** 195.046 of the statutes is repealed.

23 **SECTION 124.** 195.047 of the statutes is repealed.

24 **SECTION 125.** 195.05 of the statutes is repealed.

25 **SECTION 126.** 195.055 of the statutes is amended to read: