

## CHAPTER 192

## RAILROADS; REGULATIONS AND LIABILITIES

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**192.001 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) "Department" means the department of transportation.

(2) "Office" means the office of the commissioner of transportation.

*History:* 1977 c. 29; 1981 c. 347; 1983 a. 189.

**192.14 Caboose equipment.** (1) This section shall apply to all cabooses except those operated in yard or transfer service.

(2) Cabooses shall be at least 24 feet in length exclusive of platform and be of either a cupola or bay window type. Cabooses shall be of metal construction and shall be sufficiently insulated to reduce noise to a reasonable level. Cabooses shall be provided with a door with a window at each end, and with an outside platform across each end, not less than 24 inches in width and be equipped with proper guard rails and with grab irons and steps for the safety of persons getting on and off.

(3) The trucks shall provide riding qualities at least equal to those of freight-type trucks modified with elliptical or additional coil springs or other means of equal or greater efficiency and shall be equipped with standard steel wheels.

(4) Cabooses constructed after December 30, 1973 shall be equipped with cushion underframe draft gear. Cabooses constructed prior to December 30, 1973 shall be equipped with cushion draft gear.

(5) Cabooses placed in service after December 30, 1973 shall be provided with electric lighting of at least 40 footcandles for direct illumination of the caboose desk, reading areas and lavatory facilities.

(6) Wherever glass or glazing materials are used on exterior doors or windows they shall be of the shatterproof glass type or an equivalent clear plastic product.

(7) Stanchions, grab handles or bars shall be installed at entrances, exits and cupola within convenient reach of employes moving within the caboose. All edges and protrusions, including, but without limitation because of enumeration, all bench, desk, chair and other furnishings, shall be rounded.

(8) All cabooses shall be equipped with at least one portable foam, dry chemical or carbon dioxide type fire extinguisher with a minimum capacity of 1-1/4 gallons or 5 pounds. Such extinguishers shall be placed in readily accessible locations and shall be effectively maintained.

(9) In the event a failure of required equipment or standards of maintenance occurs after a caboose has commenced a trip in service, it shall be corrected at the first point at which maintenance supplies are available, or, in case of repairs, at the first point where repair facilities are available.

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

(11) Compliance with this section shall be accomplished within 5 years of December 30, 1973. The requirements stated in this section shall be deemed complied with by equipment or standards or maintenance equal or superior to those prescribed in this section.

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

*History:* 1973 c. 154; 1981 c. 347 s. 80 (1).

**192.15 Engine equipment.** (1) This section shall apply to all engines or locomotives used in operating a railroad.

(2) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Cab" means the crew compartment of the engine.

(b) "Control unit" means the unit which controls the movement of multiple units.

(c) "Engine" means a locomotive or a unit propelled by any form of energy, or a combination of such units operated from a single control, used in train or yard service.

(d) "Initial terminal" means the terminal within the state from which an engine is dispatched and at which maintenance supplies are available or at which regular maintenance forces are available to repair defective equipment.

(e) "Railroad" means a railroad operated as a common carrier in this state.

(3) Cabs shall be sufficiently insulated to reduce noise in the cab in accordance with federal regulations.

(4) Cabs shall be provided with at least 2 doors for exiting in 2 different directions. Exterior platforms shall be equipped with appropriate hand or guard rails. All ladders and steps

shall be equipped with grab irons for the safety of persons getting on and off.

(5) Wherever glass and glazing materials are used on exterior engine doors or windows they shall be in compliance with federal regulations.

(6) Cab doors and windows shall be weatherstripped to prevent drafts and noxious odors from entering the cab. Cabs shall be heated to maintain a minimum temperature of 50° Fahrenheit and shall be insulated to retain heat. Heaters shall be in proper working order whenever the engine is in use.

(7) Cabs shall be supplied with a drinking cup dispenser with a supply of cups. At least one gallon of sanitary water from a water cooler or sealed containers of water from a refrigerated cooler shall be in the cab at the time of departure from the initial terminal.

(8) Each cab used in train service more than 25 miles from an initial terminal shall be equipped with a suitable retention toilet facility. If locomotives are operated in multiple units only the control unit needs to comply with the toilet facility requirement. All toilet facilities shall be sanitary and operational when placed in service at the initial terminal.

(9) Each cab shall be in a clean and sanitary condition when placed in service.

(10) A cab used in train service shall be equipped with a speedometer functioning accurately within 3 miles per hour. If locomotives are operated in multiple units only the control unit needs to comply with the speedometer requirement.

(11) Engines shall be equipped with whistles or horns mounted to face the direction in which the engine is moving and placed to emit a warning sound at a sound level which accords with established practices to warn employees and the public of the engine's approach.

(12) All cabs shall be equipped with at least one portable foam, dry chemical or carbon dioxide type fire extinguisher with a minimum capacity of 1-1/4 gallon or 5 pounds. The extinguisher shall be placed in a readily accessible location and shall be effectively maintained.

(13) If a failure of required equipment or standards of maintenance, as set forth under this section, occurs after an engine has commenced a trip or tour of duty in service, it shall be corrected at the first point at which maintenance supplies are available, or, in case of repairs, prior to the next assignment.

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

(15) Compliance with this section shall be accomplished within 5 years of November 17, 1977. The requirements stated in this section shall be deemed complied with by equipment or standards or maintenance equal or superior to those prescribed in this section.

History: 1977 c. 155; 1981 c. 347 s. 80 (1)

**192.17 Arrest of passenger; police power of conductors.** If it shall become necessary for the protection of the passengers on any railroad car from the violent, abusive, profane or indecent language or conduct of any passenger, the conductor may arrest such passenger and keep him in the baggage car or some other safe and secure place on such train until its arrival at some usual stopping place, when he may be put off the train and given into the custody of some officer for

prosecution; and for this purpose conductors, while in charge of trains, may exercise the powers of sheriffs.

**192.18 Shipment of grain, delivery.** Every corporation operating a railroad shall receive all grain offered to it in carload lots for transportation, and shall transport such grain at the rates then in force to the elevator, warehouse or mill to which the same may be directed by the shipper, and deliver the same to the consignee at the place designated for the delivery thereof, if there be any track connecting therewith, over which such corporation shall have the right to run its cars, and such place of delivery be not more than one-half mile from its railroad; and shall make no additional charge for transportation of such grain because of such delivery nor charge for such delivery, except such sum as such corporation shall be actually required to pay for the use of such connecting track for such delivery.

**192.255 Qualifications of conductors and flagmen.** (1) No person shall act or be engaged to act as a conductor on a railroad freight or passenger train in this state without having for at least three years prior thereto served or worked in the capacity of a railroad brakeman.

(2) No person shall act or be engaged to act as a flagman on a railroad train in this state without having for at least two years prior thereto served or worked as a brakeman on a freight train or passenger train.

(3) No railroad company by its officers, agents or employees shall knowingly engage or employ any person to act in the capacity of conductor or flagman in violation of the provisions of this section.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed as applying to the running or operating of trains in the case of disability of a conductor or a flagman while out on the road between divisional terminals, or in case of an accident or wreck, or the shifting of cars or making up trains or doing any work appurtenant thereto, by a switchman or yardman in divisional terminals.

(5) The provisions of this section as to brakeman shall not apply unless there are available at the terminal from which the train is starting brakemen who meet the requirements of this section and who are not assigned to regular runs nor shall the provisions of this section apply to any railroad company within the state nor the receiver or lessee thereof, whose line of railroad is less than thirty miles in length nor shall anything herein contained relieve any railroad company from the negligence of any of its employees.

(6) Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall upon conviction be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars nor less than twenty-five dollars or confined in the county jail not exceeding ninety days, or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

**192.266 Lights on track motor cars.** It shall be unlawful after July 1, 1950, for any person, firm or corporation operating or controlling any railroad running through or within the state to operate or use in motion any track motor car during the period from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise, which is not equipped with an electric headlight either portable or fixed of such construction and with sufficient candlepower to render plainly visible at a distance of not less than 200 feet in advance of such track motor car any track obstruction, landmarks, warning sign or grade crossing and which is not further equipped with a red rear electric light or reflector.

**192.267 Luminous markings on engines and cars.** Every railroad engine and railroad box car, flat car, gondola and tank car, which is built or rebuilt in this state, shall have luminous tape or reflectors affixed to each side. The tape shall be at least 2 inches wide and shall form a continuous horizontal strip. The reflectors shall be not less than 2 inches in diameter and shall be placed not more than 6 inches apart in a horizontal line.

History: 1971 c. 318

**192.268 Windshield, canopy and curtains on track motor cars.** It is unlawful after January 1, 1965, for any person operating or controlling any railroad running through or within the state to operate or use in motion any track motor car, without a canopy or top, a windshield and windshield wiper, and each side and the rear enclosed by panels or curtains, removable or fixed, to adequately protect the occupants thereof from the weather. This section shall apply only to track motor cars which operate regularly outside the confines of the railroad yards.

**192.27 Connecting tracks and switching. (1)** When the track of a railway corporation crosses the track of any other railway corporation at grade, or when their tracks and right of way shall be adjacent, except in counties having one hundred fifty thousand population, the corporations shall, within sixty days after a written request of the office or the council or board of the city, town or village within which the tracks so cross or are adjacent, make a track connection within such town, city or village to afford reasonable and proper facilities for the interchange of traffic between their respective lines for forwarding and delivering freight, and the expense thereof shall be borne equally by the said corporations, unless otherwise ordered by the office.

**(2)** Any railroad corporation neglecting or refusing to comply with the provisions of this section shall be liable to a forfeiture of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars for each offense, and each day shall constitute a separate offense.

History: 1981 c. 347 s. 80 (1).

**192.29 Train speed at street and highway crossings. (1) SETTING MAXIMUM SPEED.** Upon petition to the office by the governing body of any city or village or by any railroad corporation alleging that any railroad crossing of one or more public highways or streets in such city or village is dangerous to human life and that public safety requires a designation of the maximum speed of a train over such crossing or crossings, or that an order previously made by the office should be modified, the office shall give notice to the parties in interest and order a hearing thereon in the manner provided by s. 195.04. If, after such hearing, the office shall determine that the crossing or crossings described in such petition are dangerous to human life, it may by order determine what maximum speed of a train over such crossing is reasonably required by public safety and is consistent with the public need for adequate and expeditious passenger and freight service by railroad, having due regard for other orders entered by the office and to practical railroad operating conditions. Where the office has so designated the maximum speed of any train or trains over such crossing or crossings, such rate of speed shall be the lawful maximum speed at which any train affected by such order can be operated over such public highway or street crossing, until changed by subsequent order of the office. Every railroad corporation violating any order entered under this subsection shall for every violation forfeit to the state not less than \$10 nor more than \$100. The jurisdiction over train speeds hereby vested in

the office shall be exclusive, but any order entered by the office hereunder shall be subject to judicial review in the manner provided by ch. 227.

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

**(3) BELL TO RING, MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY.** (a) No railroad train or locomotive shall run over any public traveled grade crossing within any city or village, except where gates are operated, or a flagman is stationed, unless the engine bell shall be rung continuously within twenty rods of and until such crossing shall be reached.

(b) Flagmen or gates shall be placed and maintained, or such mechanical safety appliances shall be installed upon such public traveled grade crossings in villages and cities as the city or village authorities and the railroad company may by agreement decide; such agreement may include the apportionment of the cost of installation of such mechanical devices.

**(4) HIGHWAYS, WHISTLE, HORN, BELL.** No railroad train or locomotive shall run over any public traveled grade highway crossing outside of the limits of municipalities unless the whistle or horn shall be blown 80 rods from such crossing and the engine bell rung continuously from thence until such crossing be reached. But the office may order that the ringing of the bell or the blowing of the whistle, or horn, or both, as required by this subsection shall be omitted at any crossing.

**(5) DANGER SIGNS.** Wherever its track crosses a public highway or street, every railroad corporation shall maintain on each side of the track and near such crossing a large signboard with the following inscription, painted in large letters: "Railroad Crossing," in such manner as to be visible to approaching traffic on the highway or street at least 100 feet distant.

History: 1977 c. 29 ss. 1654 (8) (b), (9) (e), 1656 (43); 1977 c. 116; 1981 c. 347 s. 80 (1).

**192.292 Trains obstructing highways.** It shall be unlawful to stop any railroad train, locomotive or car upon or across any highway or street crossing, outside of cities, or leave the same standing upon such crossing longer than 10 minutes, except in cases of accident; and any conductor, engineer, brakeman or other person in charge thereof or responsible therefor who shall violate this section shall be liable to a fine of not more than \$25 or to imprisonment of not more than 15 days.

**192.295 Wilful neglect of railroad employees.** Any officer, agent, conductor, engineer or employe of any railroad company operating within this state who wilfully neglects or omits to ring or cause to be rung the bell on the engine of any train of cars or on an engine alone or to blow the whistle, as required by s. 192.29 (3) and (4) shall be imprisoned not more than 6 months or fined not exceeding \$100.

History: 1983 a. 501

**192.31 Telltales over railroads. (1)** Every railroad corporation shall maintain suitable telltales wherever any overhead structure or any part thereof is less than 22 feet above the top of rail; except that if the office finds that the installation of a telltale at any particular place would be impracticable or would result in an increased hazard to either the public or an employe and that either or both such factors outweigh the safety benefit which would result from the installation of a telltale, the office may enter an order providing an exemption from this section. The exemption shall be ordered by the office only after public hearing under sub. (4).

(2) The office may determine the materials for and the construction and placing of such telltales.

(3) After July 1, 1949, no overhead structure shall be constructed or reconstructed, not including ordinary repairs necessary for maintenance, which shall have a vertical clearance of less than 22 feet above the top of rail, except as provided in sub. (4).

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

(5) Prior to July 1, in each year every corporation operating a railroad within the state shall file with the office a verified statement showing the location of every such bridge or other structure over any of its tracks at a height of less than 22 feet above the top of rail, together with a statement showing whether or not the provisions of this section have been fully complied with.

(6) An employe of a railroad corporation who is injured by or because of the existence of any bridge, or other structure over, above or across any of the tracks of said railroad at a height less than that provided in this section, which has not been protected by telltales, shall not be considered to have assumed the risk of such injury, although he continues in the employ of such corporation after the existence of such unguarded structure has been brought to his knowledge.

History: 1981 c. 347 s. 80 (1); 1983 a. 192

**192.32 Trespassing on railroad.** (1) No person, other than a licensee or authorized newspaper reporters or those connected with or employed upon the railroad, shall walk, loiter or be upon or along the track of any railroad. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to interfere with the lawful use of a public road or highway by any person, or to prevent any person from driving across any railroad from one part of his land to another part thereof, or from walking directly across the tracks or right of way of any railroad; or with the use of the right of way or track by any person when occasioned by or in connection with, either directly or indirectly, the shipping, loading or unloading of freight, seeking employment, the investigation or securing of evidence with respect to any accident or wreck, or in conducting or transacting any other business for or with said railroad; or with the entry of any employe during or on account of labor disputes by employes.

(2) Each railroad corporation shall post notices containing substantially the provisions and penalties of this section, in one or more conspicuous places in or about each railroad station.

**192.321 Getting on and off cars.** Any person under the age of 17 years who shall get upon, attempt to get upon, cling to, jump or step from any railroad car or train while the same is in motion shall be punished by fine of not more than \$20 nor less than \$2, provided that this section shall not apply to the employes of any railway or express company.

**192.324 Railroad bridges to be safe for employes.** Whenever a complaint is lodged with the office by any person to the effect that a railroad bridge because of its style of construc-

tion does not have walks or railings and for that reason is dangerous to the life and limb of railroad employes and the safety of such employes requires the alteration so as to provide for such walks and railings of such bridge, it shall be the duty of the said office to give notice to the party in interest, other than the complainant, of the filing of such complaint and furnish such party with a copy thereof, and to order a hearing thereon, in the manner provided for hearings in s. 195.31, and after such hearing the office shall determine what alteration, if any, of such bridge, shall be made. The expense of such alteration shall be borne by the railroad company. The office may, on its own motion, in the absence of any complaint, when in its opinion the safety of railroad employes requires the alteration of any such bridge after like notice and hearing, proceed in like manner as upon a complaint duly filed.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (9) (e); 1981 c. 347 s. 80 (1)

**192.327 Motor vehicles of railroads used to transport its employes.** (1) As used in this section, unless the context requires otherwise:

(b) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle which is self-propelled.

(c) "Owner" means any person having the lawful use or control of a motor vehicle as holder of the legal title of the motor vehicle or under contract or lease or otherwise.

(d) "Place of employment" means that location where one or more workers are actually performing the labor incident to their employment.

(e) "Worker" means an individual employed for any period in any work for which he is compensated, whether full or part time.

(2) Every motor vehicle provided by a railroad company and used to transport one or more workers to and from their places of employment or during the course of their employment shall be operated by a driver who satisfies the minimum standards for drivers established by the department.

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

(4) Before formulating such rules, the office shall conduct hearings under ch. 227 and invite the participation of interested groups. These groups may make suggestions relating to the minimum standards to be embodied in the rules. The office may consider the suggestions prior to the issuance of any rules.

(5) The office may amend the rules at any time upon its own motion after due notice to interested parties.

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

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

(8) Any railroad company wilfully failing to comply with an order issued under sub. (7), may be fined not to exceed \$500.

History: 1977 c. 29 ss. 1299, 1654 (7) (a), (e), (9) (e); 1981 c. 347 s. 80 (1).

**192.33 Fences, cattle guards, crossings.** (1) Every corporation operating any railroad shall erect and maintain on

both sides of its road (depot grounds excepted) sufficient fences with openings or gates or bars therein, and suitable and convenient farm crossings for the use of the occupants of the lands adjoining and shall maintain cattle guards at all highway crossings (outside of municipalities) and connect their fences therewith. This section shall not apply to that part of the road where sidetracks or switch tracks are used in cities of the first class.

(2) All roads shall be so fenced and such cattle guards be made within one month from the time of commencing to operate the same, so far as operated. Until such fences and cattle guards shall be made, every railroad corporation owning or operating any such road shall be liable for all damages done to domestic animals, or persons thereon, occasioned in any manner, in whole or in part, by the want of such fences or cattle guards; but after such fences and cattle guards shall have been constructed such liability shall not extend to damages occasioned in part by contributory negligence, nor to defects existing without negligence on the part of the corporation or its agents.

(3) The sufficiency of fences shall be determined according to ch. 90; but nothing herein shall render any fence insufficient which was a legal or sufficient fence when built.

(4) No fence shall be required in places where ponds, lakes, watercourses, ditches, hills, embankments or other sufficient protection renders a fence unnecessary to prevent domestic animals from straying upon the right of way.

(5) The maintenance of cattle guards may be omitted by the railroad company with the written consent of the office specifying the particular crossings.

**History:** 1981 c. 347 s. 80 (1).

Trespasser was not member of class protected by fencing statute. *Anderson v. Green Bay & Western Railroad*, 99 W (2d) 514, 299 NW (2d) 615 (Ct. App. 1980)

**192.34 Fences; complaint of insufficient; hearing; order.**

Upon complaint by the owner or occupant of any land contiguous to the right of way of any railroad that the railroad company operating such line has failed to construct or keep in good repair such fences as the law requires along its right of way opposite to such land, the office shall proceed thereon in the manner provided in s. 195.04. If it shall appear that the complaint is well founded said office may order and direct said railroad company to repair such fences so that the same shall be sufficient or to construct legal fences.

**History:** 1981 c. 347 s. 80 (1).

**192.35 Fences; interference with, etc., trespassers on track.**

Any person who shall wilfully take down, open or remove any railroad fence, cattle guard or crossing or any portion thereof, or allow the same to be taken down, opened or removed, or who, having lawfully taken down bars or opened gates in such fences for the purpose of passing through the same, shall not immediately replace or close the same, shall forfeit not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars, and in addition be liable to the party injured for all damages resulting from such act or omission; and any person who shall ride, lead or drive any horse or other animal upon such a fenced road, or who shall ride, lead or drive any horse or team lengthwise of an unfenced railroad track (other than at the farm crossings or upon depot grounds or where the same is laid along or across a public road or street), without the consent of the party owning or having control of such road shall, for every such offense, forfeit not exceeding ten dollars, to such party, and shall also pay all damages which shall be sustained by the party aggrieved.

**192.36 Fences, occupant of land may build or repair.**

Whenever a railroad corporation shall fail to build or repair

any fence, which the law requires it to erect, the owner or occupant of the land adjoining may, between the first day of April and the first day of October, give notice in writing to such corporation to build, within sixty days or repair within thirty days, such fence, after the service of such notice. Such notice shall describe the land on which such fence is required to be built or repaired, and service thereof may be made by delivering the same to any station agent of said corporation. In case the corporation shall fail to build or repair the fence within the time aforesaid, then such owner or occupant may build or repair the same; and may recover from such corporation the cost thereof with interest at one per cent per month from the time such fence shall have been built or repaired.

**192.37 Fences, farm crossings; railroads to provide. (1)**

Whenever any corporation shall operate a railroad through inclosed lands and shall fail to construct the fences, farm crossings or cattle guards required by law, proper for the use of such lands, the owner or occupant thereof may give notice in writing signed by him to such corporation, to be served as a circuit court summons is served, to fence its road through his enclosed lands, describing the same, and construct the necessary farm crossings and cattle guards thereon. If such company, after being so notified, neglect for three months to construct such fences, farm crossings and cattle guards, it shall be liable to pay to such owner or occupant ten dollars for each day after the expiration of said three months until so constructed. But no time between the first day of November and the first day of April succeeding shall be included in the three months aforesaid.

**192.38 Contracts not affected.** Sections 192.33 to 192.37 shall not affect any contract entered into between any railroad corporation and the proprietors and occupants of lands adjoining for the construction and maintenance of gates, bars, cattle guards and railroad crossings.

**192.42 Common carriers, joint liability, enforcement. (1)**

Every common carrier receiving property for intrastate transportation shall issue a bill of lading therefor and shall be liable to the lawful holder thereof for any loss of or injury to such property caused by it or by any common carrier to which such property may pass, and no contract, receipt, rule or regulation shall exempt the issuer from the liability hereby imposed.

(2) Any holder of such bill of lading may bring an action against all of the carriers and on proof that the property was lost, destroyed or damaged in transit, the liability shall attach to all the defendants and judgment shall be entered accordingly against them all unless a carrier shall prove its nonliability, in which case the judgment shall go only against the other defendants.

(3) The carrier issuing such bill of lading shall be entitled to recover from the common carrier on whose line the loss or injury shall have been sustained the amount of damages it may be required to pay to the owner of such property, as may be evidenced by any receipt or judgment.

**192.43 Liability of carrier of passengers made absolute.**

No contract, receipt, rule, or regulation shall exempt any corporation or person engaged in transporting persons for hire, within this state, from the liability of a common carrier, or carrier of passengers, which would exist had no contract, receipt, rule, or regulation, been made.

**192.44 Fires; railroad liability; action for damages. (1)**

Each railroad corporation owning or operating a railroad shall be liable to the owner of property injured or destroyed

by fire communicated directly or indirectly by locomotives in use upon such railroad, or by the burning of grass, weeds or rubbish on the right of way by employes of such corporation; and such railroad corporation may procure insurance in its own behalf for its protection against such liability.

(2) To recover such damages, it shall only be necessary for the owner to prove the loss of or injury to his property, and that the fire originated in the manner hereinbefore stated.

**192.47 Railroad police; oath; powers.** Any railway company may, at its own expense, appoint and employ railroad police officers at the stations or other places on the line of its road within this state as it deems necessary for the protection of its property and the preservation of order on its premises and in and about its cars, depots, depot grounds, yards, buildings or other structures. Each police officer shall take an oath to support the constitution of the United States and claiming to be a citizen of the United States and shall file it in the office. Each police officer shall, when on duty, wear a shield furnished by the company bearing the words "Railroad Police" and the name of the company. These police officers may arrest, with or without warrant, any person who in their presence commits upon the premises of the company or in or about its cars, depots, depot grounds, yards, buildings or other structures any offense against the laws of this state or the ordinances of any town, city or village, and shall also have the authority of sheriffs in regard to the arrest or apprehension of these offenders in or about the premises or appurtenances. In case of the arrest, by a railroad police officer, of any person without warrant the officer shall immediately take the offender before a judge having jurisdiction and make complaint against the offender. Every railway company shall be responsible for the acts of its police officers.

History: 1981 c. 347; 1985 a. 135

**192.52 Terminals and shops, removal.** (1) (a) The term "shops" shall mean and embrace plants and locations where steam railroads engage in the general work of repairing, painting, overhauling or constructing locomotives, cars, coaches and other rolling stock and appurtenances thereto.

(b) The word "terminal" as employed in this section shall mean where trains are customarily and normally made up, or where train and engine crews on through trains are normally and customarily changed on the main line of any steam railroad operating in this state.

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

(4) No railroad company operating in this state shall remove or transfer its terminals or permanently close any terminals in this state without the permission or consent of the office after due hearing had on petition therefor, in compliance with ch. 195.

(5) Before any railroad company operating in this state shall make any removal or transfer of shops or terminals or abandon the same it shall file notice of intention so to do with the office, and the office shall have the power to investigate whether such proposed removal, transfer or abandonment, as the case may be, is in the public interest and is not unreasonable or unfair as to the employes of such railroad company. No such removal or transfer shall be made during such investigation, or thereafter, if the office finds such removal,

transfer or abandonment is not in the public interest or is unreasonable or unfair as to the employes of such railroad.

History: 1971 c. 164 s. 88; 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (9) (e); 1981 c. 347 s. 80 (1); 1983 a. 189

**192.53 Railroad track clearance.** (1) After July 1, 1931, no building or loading platform shall be constructed or any addition to or reconstruction of a then existing building or loading platform, not including ordinary repairs necessary for maintenance, shall be made which shall have a horizontal clearance of less than eight feet six inches between it and the center line of any railroad track. The same clearance shall be maintained between such track and any material used in and about the construction of any such building or loading platform.

(2) Platforms at passenger stations used for loading and unloading passengers, baggage, mail and express may be constructed and maintained as follows:

(a) Such a platform which is not higher than four inches above the top of the rail shall be not less than four feet six inches from the center line of the adjacent track;

(b) Such a platform which is more than four inches but not higher than eight inches above the top of the rail shall be not less than five feet one inch from the center line of the adjacent track;

(c) Such a platform which is more than eight inches but not higher than one foot nine inches above the top of the rail shall be not less than six feet from the center line of the adjacent track;

(d) Such a platform which is higher than one foot nine inches above the top of the rail of a main track shall be not less than eight feet from the center line thereof.

(3) High platforms in existence on July 1, 1949 for handling baggage, mail, express and freight to and from cars on other than main tracks, where an unobstructed working space at ground level is maintained on the opposite side of track from such platform, may be maintained with face or edge 5 feet 8 inches from center line of such track, but after July 1, 1949, no such platform shall be constructed which provides a clearance of less than 6 feet 4 inches between the face or edge thereof and the center line of any such track. No such platform shall be constructed which is more than 5 feet above top of rail level.

(4) Upon finding that any such structure will not imperil life or limb, and that the public interest requires or permits such structure to be constructed or reconstructed otherwise than as permitted by the foregoing provisions of this section, the office may exempt such structure from such provision. Such findings shall be made only upon written application, setting forth fully the grounds therefor and shall be made only after public hearing, and the findings and order granting exemption shall be in writing and shall contain complete provisions and requirements as to the horizontal clearance to be maintained in such construction or reconstruction. Such structure shall be constructed or reconstructed only in compliance with such order.

(5) Except as hereinbefore provided in this section and subject to the power of the office to make exceptions hereto in a manner similar to the power given it in sub. (4) no railroad or shipper shall after May 28, 1943, place or construct, within 8 feet 6 inches of the center line of any railroad track, any retaining walls, fences, signs, stand pipes, conveyors, or any other like obstruction, except railroad bridges, switch stands, mail cranes, coal, ice and water stations, intertrack fences and signals and other necessary interlocking mechanisms, or permit, within 8 feet 6 inches of the center line of any railroad track, the accumulation of any rubbish, waste or material of any sort, except material used for repair or construction work

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91-92 Wis. Stats. 3180

by such railroad company. The intent of this subsection is to afford proper clearance between railroad cars and obstructions and to promote the safety of railroad employes in switching cars.

(6) Every railroad or shipper to which this section applies, who violates any provision of this section or who fails, neglects or refuses to obey any lawful order made by the office under the provisions of this section, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$100 or by imprisonment in the county jail for not exceeding 60 days, or by both.

History: 1981 c 347 s. 80 (1)

**192.54 General penalty for this chapter.** If any railroad corporation, its officers, agents or servants violate or fail to comply with any provision of this chapter such corporation shall, for every violation or failure (unless some other penalty is specifically provided) forfeit not less than ten nor more than one thousand dollars, and be liable to the person injured for all damages sustained thereby.

History: 1981 c 390

**192.55 Special penalties for this chapter.** (5) Any corporation or person operating a railroad that shall fail to erect the telltales required by s. 192.31 for the space of 60 days after notice from the office requiring such erection shall forfeit not less than \$50 nor more than \$100, and each 20 days' delay thereafter in erecting such telltales shall be a separate offense.

(6) Any person violating s. 192.32 shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1 nor more than \$50, or by imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

(7) Any railroad which violates s. 192.14 or 192.15 shall forfeit to the state \$100 for each violation and each day that the violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.

History: 1971 c 306; 1973 c 154; 1977 c 155; 1981 c 347 s. 80 (1); 1983 a 501

**192.56 Abandoning of railroad stations.** (1) It is unlawful for any railroad company owning or operating any railroad in whole or in part in this state, to abandon any station in any town, village or city on its line of railroad, within this state, or to remove the depot therefrom, or to withdraw agency service therefrom, without first obtaining from the office an order authorizing such action.

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

(3) Notice of the time and place of said hearing and of the purpose thereof shall be given, by the office, by posting said notice in five conspicuous places in said town or village.

(4) Any public body, or citizen, or group of citizens affected may appear at said hearing and prior to or at said hearing, file objections to the granting of the order prayed for.

(5) The said hearing shall be held as other hearings before said office are held as far as applicable. Said office may dismiss said application or may grant it in whole or in part and under such conditions as it may deem equitable.

(6) At a station where no agency service is provided, the application to the office for such authorizing order shall set forth the facts showing the necessity for such action by the railroad company. Notice of proposed removal or abandonment shall be given by the office by posting notice in 5

conspicuous places in the town or village concerned; and if within 20 days after the posting of notice no objections in writing are filed with the office by persons directly affected, an order authorizing the abandonment of the station may be issued by the office. If such objections to the granting of the order are filed with the office, the office shall proceed to hold a hearing in the matter as provided in subs. (4) and (5).

History: 1973 c 157, 333; 1977 c 29 s. 1654 (9) (e); 1977 c 203; 1981 c 347 s. 80 (1)

**192.71 Lands may be sold; proceedings if terms of grant not complied with.** Any railroad corporation upon which any lands granted to this state shall have been conferred to aid in the construction of any railroad may sell, assign and transfer the lands so conferred upon it or any portion thereof to any other railroad corporation which shall by law have the right to construct a railroad along and upon the line or any portion of the line upon which such lands are applicable under the grant of this state upon such terms and conditions as it shall fix; provided, that the corporation receiving such lands shall be bound to construct the part of the line of railroad to aid in the construction of which the lands were granted to this state, to which the assigned lands are applicable according to the terms of the grant by congress, and to comply fully with all conditions and requirements contained in the act in and by which the state conferred said lands upon said corporation.

The terms and conditions of every such transfer shall be embodied in an agreement in writing, which shall be recorded in the office of the secretary of state; and provided further, that no such transfer or assignment shall be of any force or effect until two-thirds of the full-paid stockholders of the corporation making the same shall have assented in writing thereto and until such assent shall have been filed with the secretary of state. Whenever any grant of lands shall have been or shall hereafter be made to any corporation to aid in the construction of a railroad upon condition that such road or any portion thereof shall be completed within the period of time or times fixed or limited by the act or acts making such grant or grants or by any act or acts amendatory thereof, and such corporation shall have failed or shall hereafter fail to complete such railroad or any part or portions thereof within the time or times fixed or limited by such act or acts, it shall be the duty of the attorney general of the state to immediately institute, if the legislature shall not have revoked said grant, proceedings against such corporation in the supreme court of the state to ascertain judicially the facts in the premises, and if it shall appear that such corporation has failed to complete its railway or any portion thereof within the time limited by said act or acts, or has otherwise committed a breach of the condition or conditions upon which said grant was conferred upon it, or of the requirements of said act, judgment shall be entered in behalf of the state forfeiting, vacating and setting aside such grant or grants and annulling all rights and interest of such corporation in and to all lands granted to it and not fully earned and restoring such lands to the state, and such corporation shall thereafter be barred and foreclosed of all rights and interests in or to the lands so adjudged to be forfeited and restored to the state, and of all right to in any manner thereafter acquire the same.

History: 1975 c. 422 s. 158.

Mineral estates reserved by railroad corporations from lands received from public domain discussed 69 Atty Gen 204.

**192.72 Lands may be mortgaged.** Any railroad corporation upon which any lands shall have been conferred to aid in the construction of any railroad or to which any such lands shall have been sold, assigned or transferred may, to raise money to construct such road, mortgage or convey by any mortgage or deed of trust, in addition to such property as is

hereinbefore provided for, any and all such lands so conferred upon it and thereby pledge the entire avails of such lands, when acquired by such corporation and sold; provided, that no bonds or other evidences of debt so secured shall be made payable at a longer time than 20 years from the date thereof and that all such lands remaining unsold at the expiration of such 20 years shall thenceforward remain subject to purchase by actual settlers at a price not exceeding \$6 per acre; and that this section shall not be taken to exempt any lands from any taxation whatever.

History: 1975 c 422 s 158.

**192.73 Sale of abandoned rail property after release by state. (1) DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

(a) "Abandoned rail property" means rail property that is determined to be abandoned as provided in s. 85.09 (3).

(b) "Condemnation commission" means the office of the commissioner of condemnation under s. 32.08 for the county in which abandoned rail property is located.

(c) "Lessee" means a person occupying abandoned rail property under a lease.

(d) "Owner" means a person that owns abandoned rail property but "owner" does not include any of the following:

1. A railroad operating as a common carrier in this state on May 11, 1990.

2. A railroad corporation that owns a controlling interest on May 11, 1990, in a railroad operating as a common carrier in this state.

3. A railroad corporation that is under common control on May 11, 1990, with a railroad operating as a common carrier in this state.

(e) "Rail property" has the meaning given in s. 85.01 (3).

**(2) RIGHT OF LESSEE TO ACQUIRE.** (a) If the department determines not to acquire abandoned rail property under s. 85.09 (4) and issues a release of its first right to acquire the property under s. 85.09 (2), an owner may not sell or offer to sell abandoned rail property to a person other than the lessee of the abandoned rail property unless the owner first offers to sell that property to the lessee under this subsection.

(b) The owner shall send by certified mail a written offer to sell abandoned rail property at a fair market price to the lessee of that property. The lessee relinquishes the right to acquire abandoned rail property under this section if it does not respond to the offer by certified mail within 60 days after receipt of the offer to sell.

(c) If the owner and the lessee do not agree on a purchase price within 60 days after the lessee's response, the lessee or

the owner may request that the condemnation commission determine the fair market value for the abandoned rail property. The condemnation commission shall determine the fair market value for the abandoned rail property on the basis of 3 independent appraisals. The owner and the lessee shall each select one appraiser and shall pay the cost of that appraisal. The condemnation commission shall select one appraiser and shall divide the cost of the appraisal equally between the owner and the lessee. The condemnation commission shall inform the owner and lessee by certified mail of its determination of the fair market value for the abandoned rail property.

(d) Within 30 days after receipt of the determination, the lessee shall notify the owner if the lessee agrees to purchase the abandoned rail property at its fair market value. If the lessee agrees to purchase, the owner shall sell the abandoned rail property to the lessee at its fair market value.

History: 1989 a 336.

**192.80 Full crew employe rights.** No employe of a railroad operating in this state on May 20, 1972 shall be discharged, laid off, furloughed, removed from train or engine service, reduced in monthly earnings, transferred without his approval or reduced in rank or classification, because of the repeal of s. 192.25, 1969 stats., s. 192.26, 1969 stats., s. 192.55 (4), 1969 stats., and s. 195.03 (21), 1969 stats., by chapter 306, laws of 1971. A transferred employe shall be reimbursed by his employer for his moving expenses, including loss on sale of home. The rights granted to the employes under this section shall be binding on the railroads and shall be part of and shall have the same force and effect as the collective bargaining agreements between the employe organizations and the railroads. Any employe who recovers from a railroad upon litigation brought to enforce his rights under this section shall be reimbursed by his employer for all reasonable attorney's fees necessarily incurred thereby.

History: 1971 c 306; 1987 a 403 s 256.

This section doesn't conflict with any federal law. Matter of Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific R., 852 F (2d) 960 (7th Cir. 1988).

Where dispute between railroad and union involved interpretation of contract terms as to which both of the contending interpretations were reasonable, and where 192.80, which was relied upon by union, states that it is part of the agreement, the dispute should be settled by the compulsory arbitration procedures of the railway labor act and not by federal court. United Transportation U. v Burlington Northern Inc 382 F Supp 896

Because railway labor act did not preempt this section, federal court had no jurisdiction. Fricke v. Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific R. 563 F Supp 311 (1983).