



## 1997 ASSEMBLY BILL 892

March 10, 1998 - Introduced by Representatives HAHN, SYKORA, URBAN, HANSON and OLSEN. Referred to Joint committee on Finance.

1     **AN ACT to amend** 20.395 (3) (cq); and **to create** 86.194 of the statutes; **relating**  
2           **to:** requiring official stop signs at railroad crossings and making an  
3           appropriation.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill requires the installation of official stop signs at all railroad crossings in this state that do not have automatic signals or other warning devices and which are not abandoned. The bill specifies that the department of transportation (DOT) shall pay the costs of installation of the stop signs. The bill directs DOT to ensure that the installation of the stop signs is phased in by July 1, 2002, and that priority for installation be based on several factors, including the frequency and speed of trains on the applicable railroad tracks and the volume and character of vehicular traffic.

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

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

4           **SECTION 1.** 20.395 (3) (cq) of the statutes, as affected by 1997 Wisconsin Act 27,  
5           is amended to read:  
6           20.395 (3) (cq) *State highway rehabilitation, state funds.* As a continuing  
7           appropriation, the amounts in the schedule for improvement of existing state trunk  
8           and connecting highways; for improvement of bridges on state trunk or connecting

1 highways and other bridges for which improvement is a state responsibility, for  
2 necessary approach work for such bridges and for replacement of such bridges with  
3 at-grade crossing improvements; for the construction and rehabilitation of the  
4 national system of interstate and defense highways and bridges and related  
5 appurtenances; for special maintenance activities under s. 84.04 on roadside  
6 improvements; for bridges under s. 84.10; for payment to a local unit of government  
7 for a jurisdictional transfer under s. 84.02 (8); for stop signs at railroad crossings  
8 under s. 86.194; and for the disadvantaged business demonstration and training  
9 program under s. 84.076.

10 **SECTION 2.** 86.194 of the statutes is created to read:

11 **86.194 Stop signs at railroad crossings.** (1) Notwithstanding ss. 192.29  
12 (2) and 349.085, the department with respect to the state trunk highway system and  
13 local authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction shall install  
14 official stop signs at any railroad grade crossing on highways maintained by the  
15 respective authorities. The cost of any stop sign under this subsection and the cost  
16 of installing any such stop sign shall be paid by the department from the  
17 appropriation under s. 20.395 (3) (cq).

18 (2) (a) The department shall ensure that, of the total number of railroad grade  
19 crossings subject to sub. (1) on the effective date of this paragraph .... [revisor inserts  
20 date], official stop signs shall be installed at the following minimum percentage of  
21 railroad grade crossings by the following dates:

- 22 1. By July 1, 1999, 25%.
- 23 2. By July 1, 2000, 50%.
- 24 3. By July 1, 2001, 75%.
- 25 4. By July 1, 2002, 100%.

1 (b) In determining which railroad grade crossings shall have official stop signs  
2 installed by the dates specified in par. (a), the department shall give priority based  
3 on all of the following:

4 1. The frequency and speed of trains on the applicable railroad tracks.

5 2. Traffic accident data for a railroad grade crossing.

6 3. The volume and character of the vehicular traffic driving across a railroad  
7 grade crossing.

8 **(3)** This section does not apply to any of the following:

9 (a) A railroad grade crossing for which a warning device has been installed to  
10 signal operators of vehicles to stop.

11 (b) An abandoned railroad grade crossing with a sign indicating the rail line  
12 is abandoned.

13 **(END)**