

By Mr. Hall of Westford, petition of Geoffrey D. Hall, Robert S. Hargraves, Robert A. Durand and another for legislation to authorize the discontinuance of soundings of train whistles at railroad crossings in the town of Ayer. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Nine.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE SOUNDING OF CERTAIN WARNING DEVICES IN THE TOWN OF AYER.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter one
2 hundred and sixty of the General Laws or any other general or
3 special law to the contrary, no railroad corporation including any
4 locomotive engine operated by or on behalf of the Massachusetts
5 Bay Transportation Authority or Guilford Rail System shall
6 permit a locomotive engine passing on its railroad in the town of
7 Ayer to sound whistles at any grade crossing which has the fol-
8 lowing safety features: flashing lights in each direction which are
9 automatically activated by the approaching train; two gates, one
10 on each side of the crossing, both of which are automatically low-
11 ered by the approaching train and both extend across approxi-
12 mately half the width of the lanes of traffic so that the entire width
13 of the lanes of traffic is blocked when the gates are lowered; a bell
14 that is automatically activated by the approaching train; overhead
15 street lights; signs posted before the grade crossing in each direc-
16 tion warning motorists and pedestrians of the crossing ahead;
17 posted speed limits for traffic of not more than thirty-five miles
18 per hour; and not more than two lanes of vehicular traffic in each
19 direction at the grade crossing. Notwithstanding the provisions of
20 this paragraph, a train is required to sound its whistle in the event
21 of an emergency.

1 SECTION 2. The Department of Public Utilities shall require
2 that whistle markers on the railroad right of way on the approach
3 to each crossing shall be replaced with bell markers within ninety
4 days of the effective date of this act.

1 SECTION 3. The Department of Public Utilities shall notify the
2 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and all other railroad
3 corporations operating locomotive engines in the Town of Ayer of
4 the provisions of this act within thirty days of its effective date.

1 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.