

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to railroad crossing safety; creating
3 s. 351.38, F.S.; providing legislative findings and
4 intent; providing definitions; requiring a railroad
5 crossing constructed after a specified date to include
6 an advanced detection and monitoring system; providing
7 requirements for such system; requiring an existing
8 railroad crossing upgrade or significant modification
9 occurring after a specified date to incorporate such
10 system; requiring the Department of Transportation, in
11 consultation with rail operators and safety experts,
12 to develop certain standards, identify priority
13 existing railroad crossings, and provide technical
14 assistance to rail operators; authorizing funding
15 assistance, tax credits, and other financial
16 incentives; providing reporting requirements;
17 providing an effective date.
18

19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
20

21 **Section 1. Section 351.38, Florida Statutes, is created to**
22 **read:**

23 351.38 Railroad crossing safety.—

24 (1) The Legislature finds that improving safety at
25 railroad crossings is critical to protecting the lives of

26 pedestrians, motorists, and railway workers. Advanced detection
27 and monitoring systems utilizing cutting-edge technology, such
28 as LiDAR sensors, high-resolution cameras, and artificial
29 intelligence-driven analytics, provide a reliable and effective
30 means to prevent collisions and enhance situational awareness.
31 The Legislature intends to minimize accidents, save lives, and
32 promote public safety by requiring railroad crossings to include
33 or integrate advanced detection and monitoring systems.

34 (2) As used in this section, the term:

35 (a) "Advanced detection and monitoring system" means a
36 system capable of detecting and classifying objects such as
37 pedestrians, vehicles, and wildlife at railroad crossings and
38 their approaches using technologies such as LiDAR sensors, high-
39 resolution cameras, and artificial intelligence-driven
40 analytics.

41 (b) "Hazard assessment" means the process of analyzing
42 detected objects to determine whether a safety risk exists based
43 on predefined criteria.

44 (c) "Real-time alerts" means automated notifications
45 generated to warn train crews, operations centers, or other
46 stakeholders of safety hazards.

47 (3) (a) A railroad crossing constructed after July 1, 2026,
48 must include an advanced detection and monitoring system capable
49 of:

50 1. Providing hazard assessment.

51 2. Generating real-time alerts.

52 3. Providing integration capability with existing and
53 future rail operation protocols, including positive train
54 control systems.

55 (b) An upgrade to or a significant modification of an
56 existing railroad crossing occurring after July 1, 2026, must
57 integrate an advanced detection and monitoring system as
58 described in paragraph (a).

59 (4) The Department of Transportation, in consultation with
60 rail operators and safety experts, shall:

61 (a) Develop standards and specifications for the
62 deployment of advanced detection and monitoring systems at
63 railroad crossings.

64 (b) Identify priority existing railroad crossings for
65 immediate upgrades or significant modifications based on risk
66 assessments and traffic volume.

67 (c) Provide technical assistance to rail operators in
68 implementing advanced detection and monitoring systems.

69 (5) (a) Funding assistance for implementing advanced
70 detection and monitoring systems may be provided through grants,
71 state infrastructure funds, or public-private partnerships.

72 (b) Rail operators may qualify for tax credits or other
73 financial incentives for the timely installation of advanced
74 detection and monitoring systems at priority existing railroad
75 crossings.

76 (6) (a) By July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, rail
77 operators must provide a report to the Department of
78 Transportation detailing the performance of advanced detection
79 and monitoring systems, including data on hazard assessment and
80 detection, real-time alerts issued, and incidents prevented.

81 (b) By July 1, 2028, and biennially thereafter, the
82 Department of Transportation shall evaluate the effectiveness of
83 the advanced detection and monitoring systems and provide a
84 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
85 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

86 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.