## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

## HB1160

# Bill as Introduced

### HB 1160 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

10Mar2022... 0493h 03/31/2022 1207s

#### 2022 SESSION

22-2446 11/08

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	HOUSE BILL $116$

AN ACT relative to obedience to signals at railroad crossings.

SPONSORS: Rep. O'Brien, Hills. 36

COMMITTEE: Transportation

## ANALYSIS

This bill modifies the circumstances under which certain vehicles must stop at railroad grade crossings.

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Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in **bold italics**. Matter removed from current law appears [<del>in brackets and struckthrough.</del>] Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

#### HB 1160 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

10Mar2022... 0493h 03/31/2022 1207s

### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT relative to obedience to signals at railroad crossings.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Rules of the Road; Obedience to Signal Indicating Approach of Train. Amend RSA 265:48 to 2 read as follows:

3 265:48 Obedience to Signal Indicating Approach of Train or Other Maintenance of Way On-4 Track Equipment.

 $\mathbf{5}$ I. Whenever any person driving a vehicle approaches a railroad grade crossing under any of 6 the circumstances stated in this section, the driver of such vehicle shall stop within 50 feet but not 7 less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of such railroad, and shall not proceed until he or she can do 8 so safely. The foregoing requirements shall apply when:

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(a) A clearly visible electric or mechanical signal device gives warning of the immediate 10 approach of a railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment;

11 (b) A crossing gate is lowered or a flagman gives or continues to give a signal of the 12approach or passage of a railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment;

13 (c) A railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment approaching 14 within approximately 1500 feet of the way crossing emits a signal audible from such distance and 15 such railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment, by reason of its speed or 16 nearness to such crossing, is an immediate hazard;

17 (d) An approaching railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment 18 is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to such crossing.

19 II. [No person shall] He or she shall not drive any vehicle through, around, or under any  $\mathbf{20}$ crossing or barrier at a railroad crossing while such gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or  $\mathbf{21}$ closed.

 $\mathbf{22}$ 2 Rules of the Road; Certain Vehicles Must Stop at All Railroad Grade Crossings. Amend RSA 23265:50, I to read as follows:

 $\mathbf{24}$ I. The driver of any vehicle carrying passengers for hire, or of any school bus carrying any 25school child, or of any vehicle carrying explosive substances, before crossing at grade any track or 26tracks of a railroad, shall stop such vehicle within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest 27 rail of such railroad and while so stopped shall listen and look in both directions along such track for  $\mathbf{28}$ any approaching train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment, and for signals 29 indicating the approach of a train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment, except as 30 hereinafter provided, and shall not proceed until he or she can do so safely. After stopping as

#### HB 1160 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE - Page 2 -

required herein and upon proceeding when it is safe to do so the driver of any said vehicle shall cross
 only in such gear of the vehicle that there will be no necessity for changing gears while traversing
 such crossing and the driver shall not shift gears while crossing the track or tracks.

3 Rules of the Road; Moving Heavy Equipment at Railroad Grade Crossing. Amend RSA 265:51,
5 III-IV to read as follows:

6 III. Before making any such crossing the person driving or moving any such vehicle or 7 equipment shall first stop the same not less than 15 feet nor more than 50 feet from the nearest rail 8 of such railroad and while so stopped shall listen and look in both directions along such track for any 9 approaching train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment and for signals indicating 10 the approach of a train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment, and shall not proceed 11 until the crossing can be made safely.

12 IV. No such crossing shall be made when warning is given by automatic signal or crossing 13 gates or a flagman or otherwise of the immediate approach of a railroad train or car or other 14 maintenance of way on-track equipment. If a flagman is provided by the railroad, movement 15 over the crossing shall be under his or her direction.

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4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

## CHAPTER 257 HB 1160 - FINAL VERSION

10Mar2022... 0493h 03/31/2022 1207s

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## 2022 SESSION

22-2446 11/08

HOUSE BILL	1160
AN ACT	relative to obedience to signals at railroad crossings.
SPONSORS:	Rep. O'Brien, Hills. 36

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## ANALYSIS

This bill modifies the circumstances under which certain vehicles must stop at railroad grade crossings.

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Explanation:Matter added to current law appears in bold italics.<br/>Matter removed from current law appears [in-brackets and struckthrough.]<br/>Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

## CHAPTER 257 **HB 1160 - FINAL VERSION**

10Mar2022... 0493h 03/31/2022 1207s

22 - 244611/08

#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT

relative to obedience to signals at railroad crossings.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 257:1 Rules of the Road; Obedience to Signal Indicating Approach of Train. Amend RSA 265:48  $\mathbf{2}$ to read as follows:

3 265:48 Obedience to Signal Indicating Approach of Train or Other Maintenance of Way On-4 Track Equipment.

 $\mathbf{5}$ I. Whenever any person driving a vehicle approaches a railroad grade crossing under any of 6 the circumstances stated in this section, the driver of such vehicle shall stop within 50 feet but not  $\mathbf{7}$ less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of such railroad, and shall not proceed until he or she can do 8 so safely. The foregoing requirements shall apply when:

9 (a) A clearly visible electric or mechanical signal device gives warning of the immediate 10 approach of a railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment;

11 (b) A crossing gate is lowered or a flagman gives or continues to give a signal of the 12 approach or passage of a railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment;

13

(c) A railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment approaching 14 within approximately 1500 feet of the way crossing emits a signal audible from such distance and 15such railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment, by reason of its speed or 16 nearness to such crossing, is an immediate hazard;

17 (d) An approaching railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment 18 is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to such crossing.

19 II. [-No person-shall] He or she shall not drive any vehicle through, around, or under any 20 crossing or barrier at a railroad crossing while such gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or 21 closed.

 $\mathbf{22}$ 257:2 Rules of the Road; Certain Vehicles Must Stop at All Railroad Grade Crossings, Amend 23RSA 265:50, I to read as follows:

 $\mathbf{24}$ I. The driver of any vehicle carrying passengers for hire, or of any school bus carrying any 25 school child, or of any vehicle carrying explosive substances, before crossing at grade any track or 26tracks of a railroad, shall stop such vehicle within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest  $\mathbf{27}$ rail of such railroad and while so stopped shall listen and look in both directions along such track for 28 any approaching train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment, and for signals 29 indicating the approach of a train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment, except as

## CHAPTER 257 HB 1160 - FINAL VERSION - Page 2 -

hereinafter provided, and shall not proceed until he or she can do so safely. After stopping as required herein and upon proceeding when it is safe to do so the driver of any said vehicle shall cross only in such gear of the vehicle that there will be no necessity for changing gears while traversing such crossing and the driver shall not shift gears while crossing the track or tracks.

5 257:3 Rules of the Road; Moving Heavy Equipment at Railroad Grade Crossing. Amend RSA
6 265:51, III-IV to read as follows:

III. Before making any such crossing the person driving or moving any such vehicle or equipment shall first stop the same not less than 15 feet nor more than 50 feet from the nearest rail of such railroad and while so stopped shall listen and look in both directions along such track for any approaching train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment and for signals indicating the approach of a train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment, and shall not proceed until the crossing can be made safely.

- 13 IV. No such crossing shall be made when warning is given by automatic signal or crossing 14 gates or a flagman or otherwise of the immediate approach of a railroad train or car or other 15 maintenance of way on-track equipment. If a flagman is provided by the railroad, movement
- 16 over the crossing shall be under his or her direction.

257:4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: June 24, 2022 Effective Date: August 23, 2022

## Amendments

Senate Transportation March 23, 2022 2022-1207s 08/04

#### Amendment to HB 1160

1 Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

 $\mathbf{2}$ 

1 Rules of the Road; Obedience to Signal Indicating Approach of Train. Amend RSA 265:48 to 3 4 read as follows:

5 265:48 Obedience to Signal Indicating Approach of Train or Other Maintenance of Way On-6 Track Equipment.

7 I. Whenever any person driving a vehicle approaches a railroad grade crossing under any of 8 the circumstances stated in this section, the driver of such vehicle shall stop within 50 feet but not 9 less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of such railroad, and shall not proceed until he or she can do 10 so safely. The foregoing requirements shall apply when:

11

(a) A clearly visible electric or mechanical signal device gives warning of the immediate 12approach of a railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment;

13(b) A crossing gate is lowered or a flagman gives or continues to give a signal of the 14 approach or passage of a railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment;

15

(c) A railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment approaching 16 within approximately 1500 feet of the way crossing emits a signal audible from such distance and 17 such railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment, by reason of its speed or 18 nearness to such crossing, is an immediate hazard;

19 (d) An approaching railroad train or other maintenance of way on-track equipment 20 is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to such crossing.

II. [No person shall] He or she shall not drive any vehicle through, around, or under any  $\mathbf{21}$ 22 crossing or barrier at a railroad crossing while such gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or  $\mathbf{23}$ closed.

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# Committee Minutes

## SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE Transportation

Sen Regina Birdsell, Chair Sen David Watters, Vice Chair Sen Denise Ricciardi, Member Sen Ruth Ward, Member Sen Tom Sherman, Member

Date: March 17, 2022

## HEARINGS

	Tuesday	03/22/2022	
	(Day)	(Date)	
Transporta	ition	Legislative Office Building 101	1:00 p.m.
(Name of C	committee)	(Place)	(Time)
1:00 p.m.	HB 1554-FN	relative to online payment of fees relating to the op highway recreational vehicles and snowmobiles.	eration of off
1:15 p.m.	HB 1020	relative to additional lights on emergency vehicles.	
1:30 p.m.	HB 1040	establishing a commission to study revenue alterna toll for the funding of improvements to the state's h bridges and their resulting improvements to the en	nighways and
1:45 p.m.	HB 1110	relative to windshield tint waivers.	
2:00 p.m.	HB 1160	relative to obedience to signals at railroad crossing	s.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

<u>Sponsors</u> :			
HB 1554-FN			
Rep, Egan	Rep. Thompson	Rep. Merner	Rep. Dontonville
Rep. Massimilla	Sen. Hennessey	-	•
HB 1020	-		
Rep. Trottier	Rep. Littlefield	Rep. Bordes	
HB 1040	-	-	
Rep. Major	Rep. Graham	Rep. Almy	Rep. Abrami
Rep. Cloutier	Rep. McGhee	Sen. Watters	Sen. Giuda

Sen. Reagan HB 1110 Rep. Walsh HB 1160 Rep. O'Brien

Sen. Gannon

Rep. Gagne

Rep. Sykes

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Rep. Steven Smith

Peter O'Neill 271-4151

<u>Regina Birdsell</u> Chairman

## Senate Transportation Committee Peter O'Neill 271-4151

HB 1160, relative to obedience to signals at railroad crossings.

Hearing Date: March 23, 2022

Time Opened:2:15 p.m.Time Closed:2:25 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Birdsell, Watters, Ricciardi, Ward and Sherman

Members of the Committee Absent : None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill modifies the circumstances under which certain vehicles must stop at railroad grade crossings.

Sponsors: Rep. O'Brien

Who supports the bill: Rep. O'Brien, Rep. Gagne, Rep. Walsh, Daren Garden BMWED; Matt Jusczak, BMWED, Chuck Carloss, NHDOT Rail & Transit, Eric Pauer

Who opposes the bill: None

Who is neutral on the bill: None

**Summary of Testimony Presented:** 

Rep. O'Brien

- Rep. O'Brien spoke in favor of HB 1160.
- The purpose of the bill is to mitigate hazards when locomotives go across railroad crossings.
- There is heavy equipment that repairs the track and it is as big as a train.
- The changes needed are not going to cause any type of inconvenience.
- Several other states had adopted similar legislation already.
- Sen. Watters asked if Rep. O'Brien wanted to include "he or she" on line 7 and line 19.
  - Rep. O'Brien said he didn't object but the key to the bill is for safety so that nobody gets hurt.
- Sen. Birdsell asked about the maintenance on the track using the repair equipment. She asked if the equipment could be as big as a train and stopping

at the railroad crossings, would the equipment also be going straight on the track or just repairing it.

- Rep. O'Brien said it takes a lot of weight to straighten the track. The equipment is not for transportation, but just for maintenance.
- Sen. Birdsell asked how the track is maintained or if the equipment goes through the train crossing to maintain the track.
- o Rep. O'Brien said he would defer to the subsequent speakers.

## Darren Gordon, BMWED

- Mr. Gordon said legislation has currently passed in 34 other states. The legislation protects people working at railroad crossings.
- Sen. Sherman asked if he knew how often accidents happen between equipment and vehicles or people.
  - Mr. Gordon said they do the best they can to protect equipment when they are in the work zone. There is also a travel mode from one jobsite to another. Some equipment is just shy of 100,000 pounds and it can be difficult to stop quickly.

PJO Date Hearing Report completed: March 25, 2022 Speakers

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Date (	)3/22/22		Time 2:	:00 p.m.	Public Heari		HB 1160
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## Testimony

## Public Hearing Testimony H.B. No. 1160

## Daren Gordon Asst. Legislative Director for New Hampshire Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED) of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Derry New Hampshire

Chairmen Birdsell, Vice Chairman Watters and member of the Committee, thank for the opportunity to testify before you today on an important public safety issue for motorists, pedestrians and the men and women who work on our railroad tracks in New Hampshire and throughout the country. I am Daren Gordon Vice President of Lodge 201 and Asst Legislative Director for New Hampshire, along with me today is Matt Jusczak Secretary/Treasurer for Lodge 201 in Derry NH

We are here to offer our strong support for House Bill 1160 that would amend RSA 265.48 to include "or other on-track equipment".

Under current New Hampshire law, maintenance of way, railroad contractors and other on-track equipment are not included in the prohibition concerning a motorist's responsibilities when approaching a crossing. It is critically important for that when the gates are down, or when there is a train approaching or a flagman or stop sign, etc. present, that motor vehicles stop a safe distance from the crossing.

House Bill 1160 would update existing railroad crossing laws pertaining to motorist responsibilities at railroad crossings. Currently, maintenance of way, railroad contractors and other on-track equipment are not included in the State Statute that mandates motorist responsibilities when approaching a crossing.

The issue is on-track maintenance equipment has evolved into "train like" machines that present the same dangers of a train engine/train with cars of not being able to stop on a dime. Through modernization of railroad on-track equipment our members now operate state of the art equipment on the tracks in New Hampshire, with that come size. We are long gone from the days when push charts ran up and down the tracks.

While most of the public understands trains occupy the tracks in their respective neighborhoods and to avoid them at all costs, not everyone is aware of the on-track maintenance and construction machines that travel on the track infrastructure in New Hampshire and around the country.

This is a true Safety Bill that will help protect New Hampshire motorist and our members that work and live here in New Hampshire.

Similar legislation has already passed in over 34 states including: Alabama, Arkansas, California,

Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, Washington State and Wyoming.

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There is currently active or pending legislation in 8 states (Ohio, Missouri, Utah, South Carolina, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania) plus this bill in New Hampshire.

The legislation is supported by rail labor, the railroads themselves, railroad contractors, and in fact I have found no public opposition. It will help to clarify that there are other pieces of equipment that travel on tracks that present the same dangers to motorists as trains. Also, we will help to educate the public of this fact after the state statute is amended, working with the New Hampshire Operation Life Saver and the Railroads Look, Listen and Live PSA programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have on this issue or railroad safety in general.

# Voting Sheets

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## **Transportation Committee** EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD 2021-2022 Session

Bill # HB 160 Hearing date:\_ **Executive Session date:** Motion of:\_\_ Vote: Second No **Committee Member** Present Made by Yes Sen. Birdsell, Châir Sen. Watters, VC Sen. Ricciardi Sen. Ward Sen. Sherman Motion of: Committee Amendment Vote: 5-0 Second Yes No **Committee Member** Present Made by Sen. Birdsell, Chair Sen. Watters, VC Sen. Ricciardi Sen. Ward Sen. Sherman Vote: 5-0 Motion of: OMade by Second - Yes No Present **Committee Member** Sen. Birdsell, Chair Consert Sen. Watters, VC Sen. Ricciardi Sen. Ward Sen. Sherman Sherman **Reported out by:** Notes:

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5-0

# Committee Report

## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## SENATE

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

THE COMMITTEE ON Transportation

to which was referred HB 1160

AN ACT

relative to obedience to signals at railroad crossings.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

AMENDMENT # 1207s

Senator Tom Sherman For the Committee

This bill modifies the circumstances under which certain vehicles must stop at railroad grade crossings. The amendment provided a simple change that clarified the words "he or she" when referring to operators for equipment.

Peter O'Neill 271-4151

## FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

## **TRANSPORTATION**

HB 1160, relative to obedience to signals at railroad crossings. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Tom Sherman for the committee.

This bill modifies the circumstances under which certain vehicles must stop at railroad grade crossings. The amendment provided a simple change that clarified the words "he or she" when referring to operators for equipment operators.

## General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

## **Docket of HB1160**

**Docket Abbreviations** 

Bill Title: relative to obedience to signals at railroad crossings.

#### Official Docket of HB1160.:

Date	Body	Description
11/17/2021	н	Introduced 01/05/2022 and referred to Transportation
1/27/2022	Н	Public Hearing: 02/01/2022 09:30 am LOB 201-203
2/3/2022	Н	Executive Session: 02/08/2022 02:30 PM LOB 201-203
3/2/2022	Н	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment <b>#2022-0493h (Vote 19-0; CC)</b>
3/11/2022	н	Amendment #2022-0493h: AA VV 03/10/2022 HJ 5
3/11/2022	Н	Ought to Pass with Amendment 2022-0493h: MA VV 03/10/2022 HJ 5
3/15/2022	S	Introduced 02/24/2022 and Referred to Transportation; SJ 5
3/21/2022	S	Hearing: 03/22/2022, Room 101, LOB, 02:00 pm; SC 12
3/24/2022	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2022-1207s, 03/31/2022; Vote 5-0; CC; SC 13
3/31/2022	S	Committee Amendment <b>#2022-1207s</b> , AA, VV; 03/31/2022; <b>SJ 7</b>
3/31/2022	S	Ought to Pass with Amendment 2022-1207s, MA, VV; OT3rdg; 03/31/2022; SJ 7
5/13/2022	н	House Concurs with Senate Amendment (Rep. Walsh): MA VV 05/12/2022 HJ 12
6/15/2022	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 05/26/2022); SJ 13
6/15/2022	Н	Enrolled (in recess of) 05/26/2022 HJ 14
6/29/2022	н	Signed by Governor Sununu 06/24/2022; Chapter 257; eff. 8/23/2022 HJ 14

NH House

NH Senate

## Other Referrals

## Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: HB (160

Senate Committee: Transfordation

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

X Final docket found on Bill Status

## **Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}**

Bill version as it came to the committee

- All Calendar Notices
- Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)
- Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing
- XXXX **Hearing Report**

Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

## Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

\_\_\_\_- - amendment # 12075 \_\_\_\_\_-- amendment #\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_ - amendment#\_

**Executive Session Sheet** 

**Committee Report** 

## Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

\_\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ • amendment # \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_\_

## Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}

Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

Governor's Veto Message

## All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}

as amended by the senate

as amended by the house

final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

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**Committee Aide** 

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Senate Clerk's Office

6/7/2022