

HB3743



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB3743

Introduced 2/18/2025, by Rep. Matt Hanson

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/22-101 new

Amends the School Code. Requires each school district to include in its handbook for grades kindergarten through 12 railroad safety messaging. Allows a school to opt-out of the messaging requirement if the school district votes that the inclusion of such messaging is unnecessary.

LRB104 11404 LNS 21492 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
5 22-101 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/22-101 new)

7 Sec. 22-101. Railroad safety messaging.Each school
8 district shall include in its handbook for grades kindergarten
9 through 12 the following railroad safety messaging:

10 (1) Cross tracks only at designated pedestrian or
11 roadway crossings and observe and obey all warning signs
12 and signals.

13 (2) Never walk down a train track; it is illegal and
14 dangerous. By the time a locomotive engineer sees a
15 trespasser or vehicle on the tracks, it is too late to stop
16 even if the emergency brakes are activated.

17 (3) The only safe place to cross is at a designated
18 public crossing, equipped with crossbucks, flashing red
19 lights, or gates. Crossing anywhere else is trespassing,
20 which can result in a ticket and fine.

21 (4) Do not cross tracks immediately after a train
22 passes. A second train may be approaching when blocked by
23 the first. Trains can come from either direction. Wait

1 until both directors can be seen clearly.

2 (5) Flashing red lights signal that a train is
3 approaching from either direction for which a fine can be
4 charged for ignoring such signals. Never walk around
5 lowered or be inside lowered gates at the crossing. Do not
6 cross the tracks until the red lights stop flashing and it
7 is safe to do so.

8 (6) Rails and recreation do not mix.

9 A school may opt-out of this requirement if the school
10 district votes that the inclusion of such messaging is
11 unnecessary.