

Senate File 245 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 245
BY SHIPLEY

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to positive train control systems, and making
2 penalties applicable.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 327D.6 Positive train control
2 systems.

3 1. Every class I railroad corporation and class II
4 railroad corporation shall ensure the railroad upon which the
5 corporation's trains operate and every train controlled by the
6 corporation, including trains controlled by an agent of the
7 corporation, is equipped with and makes use of a positive train
8 control system. The railroad corporation is responsible for
9 all costs associated with the installation and maintenance of
10 the system.

11 2. Positive train control systems must enable all system
12 equipment to communicate and function with all other system
13 equipment, including by sending and receiving movement
14 authority and information about the system equipment's
15 location. Positive train control systems must restrict train
16 movement, only allow specific movements where specified, and
17 halt any train that does not move in accordance with the
18 provided specifications.

19 3. As used in this section:

20 a. "*Class I railroad corporation*" means the same as a
21 class I rail carrier, as defined by the federal surface
22 transportation board.

23 b. "*Class II railroad corporation*" means the same as a
24 class II rail carrier, as defined by the federal surface
25 transportation board.

26 c. "*Positive train control system*" means a system designed
27 to prevent railroad train-to-train collisions, over-speed
28 derailments, incursions into established work zones, and
29 movements of railroad trains through switches left in the wrong
30 position.

31 d. "*Train*" means railroad train as defined in section 321.1.

32 EXPLANATION

33 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
34 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

35 Federal law requires class I railroad carriers to install

1 positive train control (PTC) systems on the carriers' main
2 lines and lines that are used to move certain hazardous
3 materials (49 U.S.C. §20157 and 49 C.F.R. pt. 236).

4 This bill requires every class I and class II railroad
5 corporation to ensure the railroad upon which the corporation's
6 trains operate and every train controlled by the corporation,
7 including trains controlled by an agent of the corporation,
8 is equipped with and makes use of a PTC system. A railroad
9 corporation is responsible for all costs associated with the
10 installation and maintenance of the PTC system. A PTC system
11 is designed to prevent railroad train-to-train collisions,
12 over-speed derailments, incursions into established work zones,
13 and movements of railroad trains through switches left in
14 the wrong position. PTC systems are required to enable all
15 system equipment to communicate and function with all other
16 system equipment, including by sending and receiving movement
17 authority, and information about the system equipment's
18 location. PTC systems must restrict train movement, only allow
19 specific movements where specified, and halt any train that
20 does not move in accordance with the provided specifications.

21 The federal surface transportation board (STB) is an
22 independent federal agency that is charged with the economic
23 regulation of various modes of surface transportation including
24 primarily freight rail. The STB has defined three classes of
25 railway carriers, designated as class I, class II, and class
26 III, respectively, according to annual revenue criteria. The
27 STB thresholds, last adjusted for inflation in 2019, for a
28 class I carrier includes a carrier earning revenue greater than
29 \$504,803,294. A class II carrier is a carrier earning revenue
30 between \$40,387,772 and \$504,803,294.

31 By operation of law, a violation of Code chapter 327D is a
32 schedule "four" penalty, a fine of not less than \$500 nor more
33 than \$5,000 per violation.