

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1960**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Karen E. Spilka**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act assisting towns to create quiet zones for at-grade rail crossings.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Karen E. Spilka	Second Middlesex and Norfolk
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
Pam Richardson	6th Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. S02088 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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AN ACT ASSISTING TOWNS TO CREATE QUIET ZONES FOR AT-GRADE RAIL CROSSINGS.

*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. The General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, are hereby  
2 amended by adding the following new Chapter:

3 Chapter 161E

4 Section 1. Subject to appropriation, the Secretary of Transportation shall create a Quiet Zone  
5 Assistance Grant. Any public authority eligible to apply for the creation of a “Quiet Zone” as  
6 defined by the United States Secretary of Transportation under authority of 49 U.S.C. 20153 may  
7 apply for a Quiet Zone Assistance Grant for financial aid for the improvements necessary to  
8 create said Quiet Zone. Eligible improvements must meet the standards specified by 49 U.S.C.  
9 20153 and the United States Secretary of Transportation for said Quiet Zones, and may include,  
10 but are not limited to, Four-Quadrant Gate Systems, Gates with Medians or Channelization  
11 Devices, One-Way Streets with Gates, Photographic enforcement, Programmed Enforcements,

- 12 and Public Education and Awareness programs. Any public authority may be eligible for a Quiet
- 13 Zone Assistance Grant up to fifty percent of the total cost to implement a new Quiet Zone.