| 1 | RAILROAD CROSSING MAINTENANCE AMENDMENTS |
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| 2 | 2022 GENERAL SESSION |
| 3 | STATE OF UTAH |
| 4 | Chief Sponsor: Mike Schultz |
| 5 | Senate Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble |
| 6 7 | LONG TITLE |
| 8 | General Description: |
| 9 | This bill amends provisions related to the duties of the Public Service Commission and |
| 10 | the Department of Transportation pertaining to safety oversight of railroads and |
| 11 | crossings. |
| 12 | Highlighted Provisions: |
| 13 | This bill: |
| 14 | amends provisions related to the duties of the Public Service Commission and the |
| 15 | Department of Transportation pertaining to safety oversight of railroads and |
| 16 | crossings to remove confusion caused by outdated references; |
| 17 | allows the Department of Transportation to allocate the costs of certain safety |
| 18 | responsibilities between the relevant public agency and the railroad; |
| 19 | amends other provisions related to the safety and maintenance of railroads and |
| 20 | crossings; |
| 21 | amends provisions related to railroad company participation and approval of |
| 22 | proposed improvements to a railroad crossing; and |
| 23 | makes technical changes. |
| 24 | Money Appropriated in this Bill: |
| 25 | None |





| 26 | Other Special Clauses: |
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| 27 | None |
| 28 | Utah Code Sections Affected: |
| 29 | AMENDS: |
| 30 | 54-1-2, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1987, Chapter 92 |
| 31 | 54-2-1, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 217 |
| 32 | 54-3-8, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Fifth Special Session, Chapter 4 |
| 33 | 54-4-1, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1975, First Special Session, Chapter 9 |
| 34 | 54-4-2, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 460 |
| 35 | 54-4-14, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1975, First Special Session, Chapter 9 |
| 36 | 54-4-15, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1999, Chapter 190 |
| 37 | |
| 38 | Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah: |
| 39 | Section 1. Section 54-1-2 is amended to read: |
| 40 | 54-1-2. Powers and duties. |
| 41 | (1) The Public Service Commission shall succeed to all powers and discharge all duties |
| 42 | and perform all the functions which by existing and continuing law are conferred upon and |
| 43 | required to be discharged or performed by the Public Utilities Commission of Utah. |
| 44 | (2) Whenever any existing and continuing law refers to or names the Public Utilities |
| 45 | Commission of Utah or any officer, agent, or employee of such commission, the same shall be |
| 46 | construed to mean, refer to, and name the Public Service Commission of Utah or the |
| 47 | corresponding officer, agent, or employee of such Public Service Commission[; provided, |
| 48 | however, that the Department of Transportation shall have jurisdiction over those safety |
| 49 | functions transferred to it by the Department of Transportation Act]. |
| 50 | Section 2. Section 54-2-1 is amended to read: |
| 51 | 54-2-1. Definitions. |
| 52 | As used in this title: |
| 53 | (1) "Avoided costs" means the incremental costs to an electrical corporation of electric |
| 54 | energy or capacity or both that, due to the purchase of electric energy or capacity or both from |
| 55 | small power production or cogeneration facilities, the electrical corporation would not have to |
| 56 | generate itself or purchase from another electrical corporation. |

| 57 | (2) "Clean coal technology" means a technology that may be researched, developed, or |
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| 58 | used for reducing emissions or the rate of emissions from a thermal electric generation plant |
| 59 | that uses coal as a fuel source. |
| 60 | (3) "Cogeneration facility": |
| 61 | (a) means a facility that produces: |
| 62 | (i) electric energy; and |
| 63 | (ii) steam or forms of useful energy, including heat, that are used for industrial, |
| 64 | commercial, heating, or cooling purposes; and |
| 65 | (b) is a qualifying cogeneration facility under federal law. |
| 66 | (4) "Commission" means the Public Service Commission. |
| 67 | (5) "Commissioner" means a member of the commission. |
| 68 | (6) (a) "Corporation" includes an association and a joint stock company having any |
| 69 | powers or privileges not possessed by individuals or partnerships. |
| 70 | (b) "Corporation" does not include towns, cities, counties, conservancy districts, |
| 71 | improvement districts, or other governmental units created or organized under any general or |
| 72 | special law of this state. |
| 73 | (7) "Department" means the Department of Transportation created in Section 72-1-201. |
| 74 | $[\frac{(7)}{8}]$ "Distribution electrical cooperative" includes an electrical corporation that: |
| 75 | (a) is a cooperative; |
| 76 | (b) conducts a business that includes the retail distribution of electricity the cooperative |
| 77 | purchases or generates for the cooperative's members; and |
| 78 | (c) is required to allocate or distribute savings in excess of additions to reserves and |
| 79 | surplus on the basis of patronage to the cooperative's: |
| 80 | (i) members; or |
| 81 | (ii) patrons. |
| 82 | [8] (a) "Electrical corporation" includes every corporation, cooperative |
| 83 | association, and person, their lessees, trustees, and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or |
| 84 | managing any electric plant, or in any way furnishing electric power for public service or to its |
| 85 | consumers or members for domestic, commercial, or industrial use, within this state. |
| 86 | (b) "Electrical corporation" does not include: |
| 87 | (i) an independent energy producer; |

88 (ii) where electricity is generated on or distributed by the producer solely for the 89 producer's own use, or the use of the producer's tenants, or the use of members of an 90 association of unit owners formed under Title 57, Chapter 8, Condominium Ownership Act, 91 and not for sale to the public generally; 92 (iii) an eligible customer who provides electricity for the eligible customer's own use or 93 the use of the eligible customer's tenant or affiliate; or 94 (iv) a nonutility energy supplier who sells or provides electricity to: 95 (A) an eligible customer who has transferred the eligible customer's service to the 96 nonutility energy supplier in accordance with Section 54-3-32; or (B) the eligible customer's tenant or affiliate. 97 98 (c) "Electrical corporation" does not include an entity that sells electric vehicle battery 99 charging services: 100 (i) if the entity obtains the electricity for the electric vehicle battery charging service, including any electricity from an electricity storage device: 101 102 (A) from an electrical corporation in whose service area the electric vehicle battery 103 charging service is located; and 104 (B) under an established tariff for rates, charges, and conditions of service; and 105 (ii) unless the entity conducts another activity in the state that subjects the entity to the 106 jurisdiction and regulation of the commission as an electrical corporation. [(9)] (10) "Electric plant" includes all real estate, fixtures, and personal property 107 108 owned, controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate the production, 109 generation, transmission, delivery, or furnishing of electricity for light, heat, or power, and all 110 conduits, ducts, or other devices, materials, apparatus, or property for containing, holding, or 111 carrying conductors used or to be used for the transmission of electricity for light, heat, or 112 power. 113 [(10)] (11) "Eligible customer" means a person who: 114 (a) on December 31, 2013: 115 (i) was a customer of a public utility that, on December 31, 2013, had more than 116 200,000 retail customers in this state; and 117 (ii) owned an electric plant that is an electric generation plant that, on December 31,

2013, had a generation name plate capacity of greater than 150 megawatts; and

| 119 | (b) produces electricity: |
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| 120 | (i) from a qualifying power production facility for sale to a public utility in this state; |
| 121 | (ii) primarily for the eligible customer's own use; or |
| 122 | (iii) for the use of the eligible customer's tenant or affiliate. |
| 123 | [(11)] (12) "Eligible customer's tenant or affiliate" means one or more tenants or |
| 124 | affiliates: |
| 125 | (a) of an eligible customer; and |
| 126 | (b) who are primarily engaged in an activity: |
| 127 | (i) related to the eligible customer's core mining or industrial businesses; and |
| 128 | (ii) performed on real property that is: |
| 129 | (A) within a 25-mile radius of the electric plant described in Subsection [(10)] |
| 130 | (11)(a)(ii); and |
| 131 | (B) owned by, controlled by, or under common control with, the eligible customer. |
| 132 | [(12)] (13) "Gas corporation" includes every corporation and person, their lessees, |
| 133 | trustees, and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any gas plant for public |
| 134 | service within this state or for the selling or furnishing of natural gas to any consumer or |
| 135 | consumers within the state for domestic, commercial, or industrial use, except in the situation |
| 136 | that: |
| 137 | (a) gas is made or produced on, and distributed by the maker or producer through, |
| 138 | private property: |
| 139 | (i) solely for the maker's or producer's own use or the use of the maker's or producer's |
| 140 | tenants; and |
| 141 | (ii) not for sale to others; |
| 142 | (b) gas is compressed on private property solely for the owner's own use or the use of |
| 143 | the owner's employees as a motor vehicle fuel; or |
| 144 | (c) gas is compressed by a retailer of motor vehicle fuel on the retailer's property solely |
| 145 | for sale as a motor vehicle fuel. |
| 146 | $[\frac{(13)}{(14)}]$ "Gas plant" includes all real estate, fixtures, and personal property owned, |
| 147 | controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate the production, generation, |
| 148 | transmission, delivery, or furnishing of gas, natural or manufactured, for light, heat, or power. |
| 149 | [(14)] (15) "Heat corporation" includes every corporation and person, their lessees, |

| 150 | trustees, and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any heating plant for public |
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| 151 | service within this state. |
| 152 | [(15)] (16) (a) "Heating plant" includes all real estate, fixtures, machinery, appliances, |
| 153 | and personal property controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate the |
| 154 | production, generation, transmission, delivery, or furnishing of artificial heat. |
| 155 | (b) "Heating plant" does not include either small power production facilities or |
| 156 | cogeneration facilities. |
| 157 | [(16)] (17) "Independent energy producer" means every electrical corporation, person, |
| 158 | corporation, or government entity, their lessees, trustees, or receivers, that own, operate, |
| 159 | control, or manage an independent power production or cogeneration facility. |
| 160 | [(17)] (18) "Independent power production facility" means a facility that: |
| 161 | (a) produces electric energy solely by the use, as a primary energy source, of biomass, |
| 162 | waste, a renewable resource, a geothermal resource, or any combination of the preceding |
| 163 | sources; or |
| 164 | (b) is a qualifying power production facility. |
| 165 | [(18)] (19) "Large-scale electric utility" means a public utility that provides retail |
| 166 | electric service to more than 200,000 retail customers in the state. |
| 167 | [(19)] (20) "Large-scale natural gas utility" means a public utility that provides retail |
| 168 | natural gas service to more than 200,000 retail customers in the state. |
| 169 | [(20)] (21) "Nonutility energy supplier" means a person that: |
| 170 | (a) has received market-based rate authority from the Federal Energy Regulatory |
| 171 | Commission in accordance with 16 U.S.C. Sec. 824d, 18 C.F.R. Part 35, Filing of Rate |
| 172 | Schedules and Tariffs, or applicable Federal Energy Regulatory Commission orders; or |
| 173 | (b) owns, leases, operates, or manages an electric plant that is an electric generation |
| 174 | plant that: |
| 175 | (i) has a capacity of greater than 100 megawatts; and |
| 176 | (ii) is hosted on the site of an eligible customer that consumes the output of the electric |
| 177 | plant, in whole or in part, for the eligible customer's own use or the use of the eligible |
| 178 | customer's tenant or affiliate. |
| 179 | [(21)] (22) "Private telecommunications system" includes all facilities for the |

transmission of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, messages, data, or other information of

any nature by wire, radio, lightwaves, or other electromagnetic means, excluding mobile radio facilities, that are owned, controlled, operated, or managed by a corporation or person, including their lessees, trustees, receivers, or trustees appointed by any court, for the use of that corporation or person and not for the shared use with or resale to any other corporation or person on a regular basis.

[(22)] (23) (a) "Public utility" includes every railroad corporation, gas corporation, electrical corporation, distribution electrical cooperative, wholesale electrical cooperative, telephone corporation, telegraph corporation, water corporation, sewerage corporation, heat corporation, and independent energy producer not described in Section 54-2-201 where the service is performed for, or the commodity delivered to, the public generally, or in the case of a gas corporation or electrical corporation where the gas or electricity is sold or furnished to any member or consumers within the state for domestic, commercial, or industrial use.

- (b) (i) If any railroad corporation, gas corporation, electrical corporation, telephone corporation, telegraph corporation, water corporation, sewerage corporation, heat corporation, or independent energy producer not described in Section 54-2-201, performs a service for or delivers a commodity to the public, it is considered to be a public utility, subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of the commission and this title.
- (ii) If a gas corporation, independent energy producer not described in Section 54-2-201, or electrical corporation sells or furnishes gas or electricity to any member or consumers within the state, for domestic, commercial, or industrial use, for which any compensation or payment is received, it is considered to be a public utility, subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of the commission and this title.
- (c) Any corporation or person not engaged in business exclusively as a public utility as defined in this section is governed by this title in respect only to the public utility owned, controlled, operated, or managed by the corporation or person, and not in respect to any other business or pursuit.
- (d) Any person or corporation defined as an electrical corporation or public utility under this section may continue to serve its existing customers subject to any order or future determination of the commission in reference to the right to serve those customers.
- (e) (i) "Public utility" does not include any person that is otherwise considered a public utility under this Subsection [(22)] (23) solely because of that person's ownership of an interest

in an electric plant, cogeneration facility, or small power production facility in this state if all of the following conditions are met:

- (A) the ownership interest in the electric plant, cogeneration facility, or small power production facility is leased to:
 - (I) a public utility, and that lease has been approved by the commission;
- (II) a person or government entity that is exempt from commission regulation as a public utility; or
 - (III) a combination of Subsections [(22)] (23)(e)(i)(A)(I) and (II);
 - (B) the lessor of the ownership interest identified in Subsection [(22)] (23)(e)(i)(A) is:
 - (I) primarily engaged in a business other than the business of a public utility; or
- (II) a person whose total equity or beneficial ownership is held directly or indirectly by another person engaged in a business other than the business of a public utility; and
- (C) the rent reserved under the lease does not include any amount based on or determined by revenues or income of the lessee.
- (ii) Any person that is exempt from classification as a public utility under Subsection [(22)] (23)(e)(i) shall continue to be so exempt from classification following termination of the lessee's right to possession or use of the electric plant for so long as the former lessor does not operate the electric plant or sell electricity from the electric plant. If the former lessor operates the electric plant or sells electricity, the former lessor shall continue to be so exempt for a period of 90 days following termination, or for a longer period that is ordered by the commission. This period may not exceed one year. A change in rates that would otherwise require commission approval may not be effective during the 90-day or extended period without commission approval.
- (f) "Public utility" does not include any person that provides financing for, but has no ownership interest in an electric plant, small power production facility, or cogeneration facility. In the event of a foreclosure in which an ownership interest in an electric plant, small power production facility, or cogeneration facility is transferred to a third-party financer of an electric plant, small power production facility, or cogeneration facility, then that third-party financer is exempt from classification as a public utility for 90 days following the foreclosure, or for a longer period that is ordered by the commission. This period may not exceed one year.
 - (g) (i) The distribution or transportation of natural gas for use as a motor vehicle fuel

- does not cause the distributor or transporter to be a "public utility," unless the commission, after notice and a public hearing, determines by rule that it is in the public interest to regulate the distributers or transporters, but the retail sale alone of compressed natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel may not cause the seller to be a "public utility."
- (ii) In determining whether it is in the public interest to regulate the distributors or transporters, the commission shall consider, among other things, the impact of the regulation on the availability and price of natural gas for use as a motor fuel.
 - (h) "Public utility" does not include:
- (i) an eligible customer who provides electricity for the eligible customer's own use or the use of the eligible customer's tenant or affiliate; or
 - (ii) a nonutility energy supplier that sells or provides electricity to:
- (A) an eligible customer who has transferred the eligible customer's service to the nonutility energy supplier in accordance with Section 54-3-32; or
 - (B) the eligible customer's tenant or affiliate.
- (i) "Public utility" does not include an entity that sells electric vehicle battery charging services:
- (i) if the entity obtains the electricity for the electric vehicle battery charging service, including any electricity from an electricity storage device:
- (A) from a large-scale electric utility or an electrical corporation in whose service area the electric vehicle battery charging service is located; and
 - (B) under an established tariff for rates, charges, and conditions of service; and
- (ii) unless the entity conducts another activity in the state that subjects the entity to the jurisdiction and regulation of the commission as a public utility.
- (j) "Public utility" does not include an independent energy producer that is not subject to regulation by the commission as a public utility under Section 54-2-201.
- [(23)] (24) "Purchasing utility" means any electrical corporation that is required to purchase electricity from small power production or cogeneration facilities pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 824a-3.
- [(24)] (25) "Qualifying power producer" means a corporation, cooperative association, or person, or the lessee, trustee, and receiver of the corporation, cooperative association, or person, who owns, controls, operates, or manages any qualifying power production facility or

274 cogeneration facility.

- [(25)] (26) "Qualifying power production facility" means a facility that:
- 276 (a) produces electrical energy solely by the use, as a primary energy source, of biomass, 277 waste, a renewable resource, a geothermal resource, or any combination of the preceding 278 sources;
 - (b) has a power production capacity that, together with any other facilities located at the same site, is no greater than 80 megawatts; and
 - (c) is a qualifying small power production facility under federal law.
 - [(26)] (27) "Railroad" includes every commercial, interurban, and other railway, other than a street railway, and each branch or extension of a railway, by any power operated, together with all tracks, bridges, trestles, rights-of-way, subways, tunnels, stations, depots, union depots, yards, grounds, terminals, terminal facilities, structures, and equipment, and all other real estate, fixtures, and personal property of every kind used in connection with a railway owned, controlled, operated, or managed for public service in the transportation of persons or property.
 - [(27)] (28) "Railroad corporation" includes every corporation and person, their lessees, trustees, and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any railroad for public service within this state.
 - [(28)] (29) (a) "Sewerage corporation" includes every corporation and person, their lessees, trustees, and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any sewerage system for public service within this state.
 - (b) "Sewerage corporation" does not include private sewerage companies engaged in disposing of sewage only for their stockholders, or towns, cities, counties, conservancy districts, improvement districts, or other governmental units created or organized under any general or special law of this state.
 - [(29)] (30) "Telegraph corporation" includes every corporation and person, their lessees, trustees, and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any telegraph line for public service within this state.
 - [(30)] (31) "Telegraph line" includes all conduits, ducts, poles, wires, cables, instruments, and appliances, and all other real estate, fixtures, and personal property owned, controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate communication by

| 305 | telegraph, whether that communication be had with or without the use of transmission wires. |
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| 306 | [(31)] (32) "Telephone cooperative" means a telephone corporation that: |
| 307 | (a) is a cooperative; and |
| 308 | (b) is organized for the purpose of providing telecommunications service to the |
| 309 | telephone corporation's members and the public at cost plus a reasonable rate of return. |
| 310 | [(32)] (33) (a) "Telephone corporation" means any corporation or person, and their |
| 311 | lessees, trustee, receivers, or trustees appointed by any court, who owns, controls, operates, |
| 312 | manages, or resells a public telecommunications service as defined in Section 54-8b-2. |
| 313 | (b) "Telephone corporation" does not mean a corporation, partnership, or firm |
| 314 | providing: |
| 315 | (i) intrastate telephone service offered by a provider of cellular, personal |
| 316 | communication systems (PCS), or other commercial mobile radio service as defined in 47 |
| 317 | U.S.C. Sec. 332 that has been issued a covering license by the Federal Communications |
| 318 | Commission; |
| 319 | (ii) Internet service; or |
| 320 | (iii) resold intrastate toll service. |
| 321 | [(33)] (34) "Telephone line" includes all conduits, ducts, poles, wires, cables, |
| 322 | instruments, and appliances, and all other real estate, fixtures, and personal property owned, |
| 323 | controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate communication by |
| 324 | telephone whether that communication is had with or without the use of transmission wires. |
| 325 | [(34)] (35) "Transportation of persons" includes every service in connection with or |
| 326 | incidental to the safety, comfort, or convenience of the person transported, and the receipt, |
| 327 | carriage, and delivery of that person and that person's baggage. |
| 328 | [(35)] (36) "Transportation of property" includes every service in connection with or |
| 329 | incidental to the transportation of property, including in particular its receipt, delivery, |
| 330 | elevation, transfer, switching, carriage, ventilation, refrigeration, icing, dunnage, storage, and |
| 331 | hauling, and the transmission of credit by express companies. |
| 332 | [(36)] (37) "Utility-owned vehicle charging infrastructure" means all facilities, |
| 333 | equipment, and electrical systems owned and installed by a large-scale electric utility: |
| 334 | (a) on the customer's side or the large-scale electric utility's side of the electricity |
| 335 | metering equipment; and |

| 336 | (b) to facilitate utility vehicle charging service or other electric vehicle battery charging |
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| 337 | service. |
| 338 | [(37)] (38) "Utility vehicle charging service" means the furnishing of electricity: |
| 339 | (a) to an electric vehicle battery charging station; |
| 340 | (b) by a public utility in whose service area the charging station is located; and |
| 341 | (c) pursuant to a duly established tariff for rates, charges, and conditions of service for |
| 342 | the electricity. |
| 343 | [(38)] (39) "Water corporation" includes every corporation and person, their lessees, |
| 344 | trustees, and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any water system for |
| 345 | public service within this state. It does not include private irrigation companies engaged in |
| 346 | distributing water only to their stockholders, or towns, cities, counties, water conservancy |
| 347 | districts, improvement districts, or other governmental units created or organized under any |
| 348 | general or special law of this state. |
| 349 | [(39)] (40) (a) "Water system" includes all reservoirs, tunnels, shafts, dams, dikes, |
| 350 | headgates, pipes, flumes, canals, structures, and appliances, and all other real estate, fixtures, |
| 351 | and personal property owned, controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to |
| 352 | facilitate the diversion, development, storage, supply, distribution, sale, furnishing, carriage, |
| 353 | appointment, apportionment, or measurement of water for power, fire protection, irrigation, |
| 354 | reclamation, or manufacturing, or for municipal, domestic, or other beneficial use. |
| 355 | (b) "Water system" does not include private irrigation companies engaged in |
| 356 | distributing water only to their stockholders. |
| 357 | [(40)] (41) "Wholesale electrical cooperative" includes every electrical corporation that |
| 358 | is: |
| 359 | (a) in the business of the wholesale distribution of electricity it has purchased or |
| 360 | generated to its members and the public; and |
| 361 | (b) required to distribute or allocate savings in excess of additions to reserves and |
| 362 | surplus to members or patrons on the basis of patronage. |
| 363 | Section 3. Section 54-3-8 is amended to read: |
| 364 | 54-3-8. Preferences forbidden Power of commission to determine facts |
| 365 | Applicability of section. |
| 366 | (1) Except as provided in Chapter 8b, Public Telecommunications Law, a public utility |

| 367 | may | not |
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| 507 | may | 1100 |

- (a) as to rates, charges, service, facilities or in any other respect, make or grant any preference or advantage to any person, or subject any person to any prejudice or disadvantage; and
- (b) establish or maintain any unreasonable difference as to rates, charges, service or facilities, or in any other respect, either as between localities or as between classes of service.
- (2) The commission shall have power to determine any question of fact arising under this section.
- (3) This section does not apply to, and the commission may not enforce this chapter concerning, a schedule, classification, rate, price, charge, fare, toll, rental, rule, service, facility, or contract of an entity described in Subsection [54-2-1(8)(b)(iii) or (iv), (20), or (22)(h)] 54-2-1(9)(b)(iii) or (iv), (21), or (23)(h), or if the electricity is consumed by an eligible customer for the eligible customer's own use or the use of the eligible customer's tenant or affiliate.
 - Section 4. Section **54-4-1** is amended to read:

54-4-1. General jurisdiction.

The commission is hereby vested with power and jurisdiction to supervise and regulate every public utility in this state, and to supervise all of the business of every such public utility in this state, and to do all things, whether herein specifically designated or in addition thereto, which are necessary or convenient in the exercise of such power and jurisdiction; provided, however, that the Department of Transportation shall have jurisdiction over [those safety functions transferred to it by the Department of Transportation Act] safety functions of public utilities as granted by Subsections 54-4-15(1) through (3) and in Title 72, Transportation Code.

Section 5. Section **54-4-2** is amended to read:

54-4-2. Investigations -- Hearings and notice -- Findings -- Applicability of chapter.

- (1) (a) The commission may conduct an investigation if the commission determines an investigation:
 - (i) is necessary to secure compliance with this title or with an order of the commission;
- 396 (ii) is in the public interest; or
 - (iii) should be made of any act or omission to act, or of anything accomplished or

- proposed, or of any schedule, classification, rate, price, charge, fare, toll, rental, rule, regulation, service, or facility of any public utility.
 - (b) If the commission conducts an investigation under Subsection (1)(a), the commission may:
 - (i) establish a time and place for a hearing;
 - (ii) provide notice to the public utility concerning the investigation; and
- 404 (iii) make findings and orders that are just and reasonable with respect to the investigation.
 - (2) This chapter does not apply to a schedule, classification, rate, price, charge, fare, toll, rental, rule, service, facility, or contract of an entity described in Subsection [54-2-1(8)(b)(iii) or (iv), (20), or (22)(i)] 54-2-1(9)(b)(iii) or (iv), (21), or (23)(i), or if the electricity is consumed by an eligible customer for the eligible customer's own use or the use of the eligible customer's tenant or affiliate.
 - Section 6. Section **54-4-14** is amended to read:

54-4-14. Safety regulation.

The commission shall have power, by general or special orders, rules or regulations, or otherwise, to require every public utility to construct, maintain and operate its line, plant, system, equipment, apparatus, tracks and premises in such manner as to promote and safeguard the health and safety of its employees, passengers, customers and the public, and to this end to prescribe, among other things, the installation, use, maintenance and operation of appropriate safety or other devices or appliances including interlocking and other protective devices at grade crossings or junctions, and block or other system of signaling, and to establish uniform or other standards of construction and equipment, and to require the performance of any other acts which the health or safety of its employees, passengers, customers or the public may demand, provided, however, that the department of transportation shall have jurisdiction over [those safety functions transferred to it by the Department of Transportation Act] safety functions of public utilities as granted by Subsections 54-4-15(1) through (3) and in Title 72, Transportation Code.

- Section 7. Section **54-4-15** is amended to read:
- 427 54-4-15. Establishment and regulation of grade crossings.
- 428 (1) (a) No track of any railroad shall be constructed across a public road, highway or

- street at grade, nor shall the track of any railroad corporation be constructed across the track of any other railroad or street railroad corporation at grade, nor shall the track of a street railroad corporation be constructed across the track of a railroad corporation at grade, without the permission of the Department of Transportation having first been secured; provided, that this subsection shall not apply to the replacement of lawfully existing tracks.
- (b) The department shall have the right to refuse its permission or to grant it upon such terms and conditions as it may prescribe.
- (2) The department shall have the power to determine and prescribe the manner, including the particular point of crossing, and the terms of installation, operation, maintenance, use and protection of each crossing of one railroad by another railroad or street railroad, and of a street railroad and of each crossing of a public road or highway by a railroad or street railroad, and of a street by a railroad or vice versa, and to alter or abolish any such crossing, to restrict the use of such crossings to certain types of traffic in the interest of public safety and is vested with power and it shall be its duty to designate the railroad crossings to be traversed by school buses and motor vehicles carrying passengers for hire, and to require, where in its judgment it would be practicable, a separation of grades at any such crossing heretofore or hereafter established, and to prescribe the terms upon which such separation shall be made and the proportions in which the expense of the alteration or abolition of such crossings or the separation of such grades shall be divided between the railroad or street railroad corporations affected, or between such corporations and the state, county, municipality or other public authority in interest.
- (3) (a) The department shall allocate responsibility for the costs of maintenance of railroad crossings, including maintenance of safety devices and crossing materials, between the railroad and the public agency involved.
- (b) The department's allocation may be based on ownership and control of the right-of-way, crossing materials, signals and devices, or other factors as appropriate to protect the public safety.
- (c) The allocation of maintenance responsibilities for the costs of a railroad crossing shall be determined by the department unless a written request for review of the determination for a specific railroad crossing is made to the department, in which case the department shall conduct a review of the maintenance allocations for the railroad crossing, and may modify the

allocation.

- (d) Responsibility for the costs of maintenance as determined by the department shall not be subject to modification or waiver by agreement between the railroad and the highway authority without department approval.
 - (e) Physical maintenance and labor performed on an at-grade railroad crossing shall:
- 465 (i) be reserved to the railroad;
 - (ii) be performed by railroad employees; and
 - (iii) comply with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Transportation.
 - (4) (a) Railroad crossing improvements and new crossings which are funded solely by non-federal funds may be required or authorized by the department based on a determination that the improvement or new crossing will improve the overall safety of the public, which determination shall be made after coordination with the railroad, affected highway authority, and communities in accordance with requirements established to determine the need, design, and impacts of the new or improved crossing.
 - (b) The railroad company affected by the improvement shall timely enter into a written agreement with the department to design and install improvements as determined necessary.
 - (c) If a railroad company does not make reasonable efforts to participate in determining the need, design, and impacts of a new or improved crossing, does not timely enter into an agreement with the department, or fails to timely provide a design and install improvements as determined necessary, the department may impose and the railroad shall pay a penalty consistent with Section 54-7-25.
 - [(3)] (5) Whenever the department shall find that public convenience and necessity demand the establishment, creation or construction of a crossing of a street or highway over, under or upon the tracks or lines of any public utility, the department may by order, decision, rule or decree require the establishment, construction or creation of such crossing, and such crossing shall thereupon become a public highway and crossing.
 - $[\underbrace{(4)}]$ (6) (a) The commission retains exclusive jurisdiction for the resolution of any dispute upon petition by any person aggrieved by any action of the department pursuant to this section, except as provided under Subsection $[\underbrace{(4)}]$ (6)(b).
 - (b) If a petition is filed by a person or entity engaged in a subject activity, as defined in Section 19-3-318, the commission's decision under Subsection [(4)] (6)(a) regarding resolution

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| 491 | of a dispute requires the concurrence of the governor and the Legislature in order to take effect. |
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| 492 | (c) The department may: |
| 493 | (i) direct commencement of an action as provided for in Section 54-7-24 in the name of |
| 494 | the state to stop or prevent a violation of a department order issued to protect public safety by a |
| 495 | railroad company, person, or entity; and |
| 496 | (ii) petition the commission to assess and bring an action as provided for in Section |
| 497 | 54-7-21 to recover penalties for failure of a railroad company, person, or entity to comply with |
| 498 | a final order of the department issued pursuant to the department's authority under this section. |