

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0078

Railroad quiet zones.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Buchanan

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to railroads and public highway crossings;  
2 providing for the transportation commission to administer a  
3 program for the establishment of railroad quiet zones in  
4 the vicinity of grade crossings in populated areas as  
5 specified; creating a subaccount within the highway fund;  
6 providing for a matching grant program; requiring a report;  
7 providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective  
8 date.

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10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

11

12 **Section 1.** W.S. 37-10-106 is created to read:

13

14 **37-10-106. Quiet zone program.**

15

16 (a) The commission shall administer a quiet zone  
17 program, in conformity with the standards prescribed in 49

1 C.F.R. Part 222, for the establishment of quiet zones and  
2 the installation of equipment to eliminate or minimize the  
3 sounding of locomotive horns in populated areas.

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5 (b) Funds appropriated by the legislature for the  
6 program created by this section shall be maintained in a  
7 subaccount within the account established pursuant to W.S.  
8 37-10-101 and shall be used only for the quiet zone  
9 program, but may be combined with other state and federal  
10 funds when quiet zone program components are included as  
11 one of the devices to be installed in a grade crossing  
12 improvement project.

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14 (c) The commission shall establish a priority rating  
15 system for the establishment of quiet zones and the  
16 installation of equipment at grade crossings, giving due  
17 consideration to safety and other factors deemed relevant  
18 by the commission.

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20 (d) The commission shall establish through rule and  
21 regulation a matching grant program for the distribution of  
22 funds in the subaccount created by this section which shall  
23 be subject to the following distribution limitations:

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1           (i) The commission shall arrange the assessed  
2 valuation of each county in descending order by county;

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4           (ii) The commission shall require the following  
5 matching percentages from counties and the incorporated  
6 municipalities therein:

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8           (A) For the bottom seven (7) counties in  
9 the list created in paragraph (i) of this subsection the  
10 commission shall require a twenty-five percent (25%) match;

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12           (B) For the middle eight (8) counties in  
13 the list created in paragraph (i) of this subsection the  
14 commission shall require a fifty percent (50%) match;

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16           (C) For the top eight (8) counties in the  
17 list created in paragraph (i) of this subsection the  
18 commission shall require a seventy-five percent (75%)  
19 match.

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21           (e) Except as provided in this section, expenditures  
22 from the subaccount created by this section shall be  
23 subject to the provisions of this chapter.

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1           (f) Beginning October 1, 2012, the department of  
2 transportation shall annually report to the joint  
3 transportation, highways and military affairs interim  
4 committee by October 1 regarding the status of the  
5 equipment installation necessary to complete the quiet zone  
6 program.

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8           **Section 2.**

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10           (a) There is appropriated from the general fund to  
11 the transportation commission five hundred thousand dollars  
12 (\$500,000.00) which shall be deposited in the subaccount  
13 created by W.S. 37-10-106(b). The funds under this section  
14 shall be for the period beginning with the effective date  
15 of this act and ending June 30, 2012. The funds under this  
16 section shall only be expended for the purpose of the quiet  
17 zone program established by this act. Notwithstanding any  
18 other provision of law, the funds shall not be transferred  
19 or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended,  
20 unobligated funds remaining from the funds under this  
21 section shall revert as provided by law on June 30, 2012.

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1           (b) The department of transportation shall include a  
2 request for funds in its 2013-2014 exception budget request  
3 to continue funding for the quiet zone program.

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5           **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2011.

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(END)