

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5227

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As of January 30, 2017

**Title:** An act relating to requiring drivers to stop for approaching other on-track equipment at railroad grade crossings.

**Brief Description:** Requiring drivers to stop for approaching other on-track equipment at railroad grade crossings.

**Sponsors:** Senators King, Hobbs, Hasegawa, Saldaña and Kuderer.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 1/30/17.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires on-road vehicles to stop at railroad crossings for on-track equipment.
- Requires areas near railroad crossings be kept clear in order for drivers to see any approaching on-track equipment.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Staff:** Hayley Gamble (786-7452)

**Background:** Current law requires drivers of vehicles on the road to stop at railroad crossings for trains and signals that indicate the approach of a train. Current law also requires counties, the Department of Transportation, and railroad companies to keep their respective rights-of-way clear of brush and timber near railroad crossings in order for drivers of vehicles on the road to clearly see approaching trains.

**Summary of Bill:** Statutes requiring drivers on the road to stop at railroad crossings for trains, or signals that indicates the approach of a train, are modified to also require drivers to stop for other on-track equipment.

Counties, the Department of Transportation, and railroad companies are required to keep their respective rights-of-way clear of brush and timber near railroad crossing in order for drivers of vehicles on the road to clearly see approaching on-track equipment.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This bill recognizes that there is equipment other than trains on the railway. We need to update our statutes to reflect this.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Curtis King, Prime Sponsor.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.