
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: HB 1452
DATE: 3/21/2001
CC: FILE

HB 1452

HB 1452 amends current law to include the development and promotion of public safety among the legislative findings and declaration of purpose for creation of the Local Governments Freight Rail Service Projects Law. HB 1452 also amends current law to provide that MDA will establish a program to permit monies from the Local Governments Freight Rail Service Project Revolving Loan Fund to be provided to counties in the form of grants to assist such counties in defraying expenses related to the upgrading of railroad grade crossings. MDOT must approve the projects. MDA is to develop rules and regulations for the administration of the program, including rules establishing the maximum amount of any grant awarded to a county and ensuring that monies are available to all counties on an equitable basis. Federal funds shall be utilized to pay not less than 5% of the cost of each project. The maximum amount of such grants to all counties may not exceed \$5 million.

HB 1452 is effective July 1, 2001.

The Railroad Association, the Supervisors' Association and MDA support this bill. HB 1452 will provide another funding source to assist counties in upgrading railroad crossings. HB 1452 is a good economic development and a good safety measure.