

**SCHOOL BUS RAILROAD CROSSING  
REQUIREMENTS**

1999 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: Neal B. Hendrickson**

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL BUSES; PROVIDING AN EXEMPTION FOR SCHOOL BUSES WITH AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSIONS IN RELATION TO TRAVERSING A GRADED RAILROAD CROSSING WITHOUT CHANGING GEARS.

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

AMENDS:

**41-6-97**, as last amended by Chapter 30, Laws of Utah 1990

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **41-6-97** is amended to read:

**41-6-97. Railroad grade crossings -- Certain vehicles must stop -- Exceptions --**

**Rules.**

(1) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2), the driver of any vehicle described in rules issued under Subsection (3) shall stop within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the railroad track before crossing, at grade, any track of a railroad.

(b) While stopped, the driver shall look in both directions along the track for any sign of an approaching train and look and listen for signals indicating the approach of any train.

(c) The driver may proceed across the railroad track only when the movement may be made with reasonable safety.

~~(b)~~ (d) (i) After stopping as required and upon safely proceeding, the driver shall only cross the railroad track in a gear that ensures no necessity for manually changing gears while traversing the crossing.

(ii) Subsection (1)(d)(i) does not apply to school buses with automatic transmissions that may shift gears while crossing the railroad track.

(e) The driver may not manually shift gears while crossing the railroad track.

(2) This section does not apply at a:

(a) railroad grade crossing where traffic is controlled by a peace officer or flagperson;  
(b) railroad grade crossing where traffic is regulated by a traffic-control signal; or  
(c) railroad grade crossing where an official traffic-control device gives notice that the stopping requirements of this section are not applicable.

(3) (a) The Department of Transportation shall adopt necessary rules describing the vehicles that must comply with the stopping requirements of this section.

(b) In making the rules, the Department of Transportation shall give consideration to the number of passengers carried by the vehicle and the hazardous nature of any substance carried by the vehicle.

(c) The rules shall correlate with and where possible conform to the most recent regulations of the United States Department of Transportation.