

Office of Rail Safety FACT SHEET

Railroad Safety Requirements

HB24-1030

Basic Requirements and Deadlines



COLORADO
Department of
Regulatory Agencies
Public Utilities Commission

HB24-1030 directs:

- The [Colorado Public Utilities Commission \(PUC\)](#) to create an [Office of Rail Safety](#) to promote transparency, accountability, and safety in all rail operations
- Establishment of two advisory committees to advise on rail safety:
 - The Community Rail Safety Advisory Committee
 - The Rail Industry Safety Advisory Committee
- The PUC to work with the Federal Railroad Administration to secure authority for the State of Colorado to address all Colorado railroad safety disciplines including crossings, track, signal and train control, motive power and equipment, operating practices, compliance, and hazardous materials
- Railroad operators to coordinate with emergency services to minimize crossing obstruction to emergency vehicles
- Railroads carrying hazardous materials to work with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to make emergency response plans

Key Dates

- The Act takes effect July 1, 2024
- The two new Safety Committees will be appointed by August 1, 2024
- A report to the Governor from the PUC, DPS and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) with implementation details is due by December 1st, 2024, so that legislation may be introduced as soon as the 2025 regular legislative session and begin operating no later than January 1, 2027
- Railroads operating mainlines shall report annually to the PUC on their wayside detector system and how detected defects are managed by January 1st 2025.



COLORADO
Department of
Regulatory Agencies

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HB24-1030 also directs:

- Railroad operators to report emergencies within 30 minutes involving:
 - Release of hazardous materials
 - Death or injuries requiring medical attention
 - Fire risk
 - Property damage greater than \$50,000
- The imposition of fines for violations of the wayside reporting and minimizing crossing obstruction requirements of \$10,000 - \$25,000 per day
- The PUC, together with CDOT and DPS, to provide a report to the legislature by December 1, 2024, including the following:
 - An assessment of:
 - Staffing levels and equipment necessary to ensure railroads' compliance with rules and regulations and to minimize safety risks
 - Emergency response and cleanup capacity needed for hazardous material incidents
 - Best practices to ensure financial responsibility for response, cleanup, and damages from major rail events
 - Quantified investment necessary to reduce crossing incidents and other risks
 - Communication issues impacting rail lines in the state
 - Data collection, reporting, and sharing processes to ensure equitable input from members of the public to state agencies
 - A legislative proposal concerning the creation of a fee structure or other revenue source, an assessment, a governance body, a recommendation for which state agency would host this body, and an Office of Rail Safety to address these needs.

LEARN MORE ABOUT
HB24-1030

[https://puc.colorado.gov/
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