

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	House File 204	House Committee:	PASSED 20a/0n (2/1/2023)
Committee:	Transportation	House Floor:	
Floor Manager:	Rep. Derek Wulf	Senate Floor:	
Date:	February 15, 2023	Governor:	
Staff:	Brad Trow (1-3471)		

Crossing Railroad Crossings Against a Gate or Signal in a Quiet Zone

- House File 204 sets up a new penalty for illegally crossing specific railroad crossings when the crossing gates are down.
- Under the bill, the penalty for violating this in a quiet zone (where train horns are not sounded) is double the normal amount of the fine.
- The bill also provides drivers the ability to complete a driver improvement course, instead of paying the fine.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 (Iowa Code section 321.341) Obedience to signal indicating approach of railroad train or railroad track equipment

Iowa Code requires drivers to stop their vehicles at a railroad crossing when given warning by an automatic signal, crossing gates, flag person, or other notice that a train is approaching.

House Study Bill 84 amends this section by adding a new subsection dealing with railroad crossings that are "quiet zones". A quiet zone is a section of a rail line, at least 0.5 miles in length, that contain one or more consecutive highway-rail grade crossings at which train horns are not routinely used at. These zones must meet federal regulations to be classified as a quiet zone.

If a driver illegally crosses a track in a quiet zone, they may attend and successfully complete a driver improvement program instead of paying the fine for the violation. They must complete the course within 90 days of the violation.

Section 2 (Iowa Code section 805.82 (14) (h))

The section amends the section of the Code establishing the fine for illegally crossing a railroad crossing by creating a fine for a violation in a quiet zone at \$520.