

the railroad tracks are insulated in a manner that prevents them from shunting the current and activating the railroad signal devices; and

WHEREAS, Railroad personnel may not be adequately alerted when Maintenance of Way motorized railroad track equipment occupies the track; and

WHEREAS, There is a corresponding concern that if Maintenance of Way track equipment and motorized vehicles were equipped with shunting capability, and if track maintenance was being performed near a grade crossing, the grade crossing signals may have to be manually disengaged by the Maintenance of Way personnel; and

WHEREAS, If grade crossing signals were manually disengaged, Maintenance of Way personnel may forget to reengage them and thereby create substantial risks to motorists at these grade crossings; and

WHEREAS, The health and safety of Maintenance of Way personnel must be considered as well as the health and safety of motorists at grade crossings; and

WHEREAS, There are no current federal regulations that require Maintenance of Way motorized railroad track equipment and rail mobile vehicles to activate the railroad signals which alert railroad personnel of the presence of railroad cars on the track; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) The Department of Licensing and Regulation, State Railroad--Administration Division of Labor and Industry shall adopt the necessary regulations to require--Maintenance--of--Way motorized--railroad--track--equipment--and--rail--mobile--vehicles--to activate the railroad signals which alert railroad--personnel--of the--presence--of--cars--on--the--track thoroughly study and investigate the serious issues relating to the safety of a railroad Maintenance of Way personnel and the usefulness of equipping Maintenance of Way motorized railroad track equipment and rail mobile vehicles with shunting devices.

(b) The Department of Licensing and Regulation, State Railroad--Administration Division of Labor and Industry shall study and investigate this issue and report its progress in developing the--regulations solutions to this problem to the Legislative--Policy--Committee General Assembly by December--1,--1989 December 31, 1990.