



## SF 3943 Wayside Detector Systems

A Wayside Detector is a device placed next to railroad tracks which automatically inspects certain aspects of trains while they are in motion and travelling between origin and final destination. This device has the ability to communicate with train crews via radio broadcast and has a direct link to the applicable railroad dispatching center.

The detector monitors trains for dragging equipment and elevated temperatures in wheels and bearings, which are indicators of imminent catastrophic failure and can cause derailments.

There is a history of successful detector systems being used in Minnesota. Some railroads have voluntarily placed defect detectors along their tracks in a pattern similar to what this bill requires. Many of these are still in place, but internal railroad procedures have been modified to defeat their intended purpose. Detector's sensitivity to defects have been "turned down" and train crews no longer receive defect notifications over the radio triggering immediate inspection. These notifications are instead intercepted by dispatching centers and the information is withheld from train crews. This is a prioritization of train movement over public safety.

While this bill mandates the placement of detectors, the notification requirements to train crews are just as important. **Detectors that are ignored are essentially useless.**

At this time, wayside defect detectors are unregulated by the federal government and states have authority to act. Please support SF 3943.

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