
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 667 (Archuleta) - Railroads: safety: wayside detectors

Version: January 5, 2026

Policy Vote: E., U. & C. 12 - 4, TRANS.
11 - 3

Urgency: No

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: January 22, 2026

Consultant: Mark McKenzie

Bill Summary: SB 667 would require a railroad corporation to install and operate a network of wayside detector systems on or adjacent to any track used by a freight train, with specified spacing requirements. The bill would require a railroad corporation to submit a wayside detector system response plan to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and require the CPUC to adopt rules necessary to implement the bill's requirements, including the establishment of penalties, as specified.

******* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *******

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on January 22, 2026**

Fiscal Impact:

- The CPUC estimates one-time costs of approximately \$49,000 to develop rules for implementation of the bill, and ongoing costs of approximately \$530,000 annually for 2 PY of new staff to review response plans and administer the citation program addressing railroad corporation violations. (General Fund)
- Unknown penalty revenues in future fiscal years, to the extent the CPUC issues citations for violations of the bill's requirements. (General Fund)

Author Amendments:

- Make a clarifying change to the definition of a "wayside detector system," as specified.
- Specify that a wayside detector system that is subject to the minimum spacing requirements must include a hot wheel bearing detector.
- Delete the requirement for a railroad to submit a wayside detector response plan to the CPUC via an expedited Tier 3 advice letter process, and instead require the CPUC to adopt rules and processes that include certain regulatory guidance to implement the bill, as specified.

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