

5680-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen, Swecker, T. Sheldon, Morton, Benton and Patterson)

Brief Title: Creating a moratorium on fee increases for utility use of railroad rights-of-way.

SB 5680-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Declares that a moratorium is established on the imposition of new fees and fee increases by a railroad company upon a utility for the construction and placement of utility facilities in a railroad right-of-way, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties.

Provides that, during the period of the moratorium, railroad companies may not require utilities to remove utility facilities from the railroad right-of-way solely because of a dispute between the parties concerning compensation for placement of utility facilities in the railroad right-of-way. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, railroad companies may only require relocation of utility facilities within the railroad right-of-way when such facilities cause interference with railroad operations or create a safety hazard.

Creates a task force to study and make recommendations on designated issues related to the siting of utility facilities on, over, under, and along railroad rights-of-way.