

A bill for an act
relating to railroads; requiring lighting in switching yards; proposing coding for
new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 219.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **[219.502] RAILROAD SWITCHING YARD LIGHTING
REQUIREMENTS.**

All class one and class two rail carriers, as classified by the Federal Railroad
Administration, their officers, and their agents operating in the state are required to
illuminate and maintain lights between sunset and sunrise on all lead tracks in switching
yards where cars or locomotives are switched, set out, picked up, inspected, or repaired.
Suspension fixtures with a lighting source must consist of not less than three-fourths of the
total number of track switches on the same switching lead or must comply with no less
than the minimum recommended illuminance levels set forth by the American Railway
Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA). Class one and class two rail
carriers, their officers, and their agents operating a railroad in this state shall comply with
switching yard lead track lighting provisions no later than December 31, 2012. Class one
and class two rail carriers, their officers, and their agents operating a railroad in this state
are required to illuminate and maintain lights between sunset and sunrise from midyard
locations focused in direction of yard leads or must comply with no less than the minimum
illuminance levels recommended by AREMA at midyard. Class one and class two rail
carriers, their officers, and their agents operating a railroad in this state shall comply with
midyard lighting provisions no later than December 31, 2014. Class one and class two
rail carriers may appeal to the commissioner for a waiver of compliance from a midyard
requirement with reasonable cause. Demonstration of reasonable cause must include an

H.F. No. 1466, as introduced - 86th Legislative Session (2009-2010) [09-2462]

- 2.1 on-site inspection between sunset and sunrise with all parties affected by the waiver
- 2.2 application at the specific yard where the waiver is to be applied.