

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 78

Senators Bizon, Barrett, Horn, Zorn, Shirkey, Santana, Geiss, Chang, Polehanki, MacDonald, Schmidt, Hollier, Bullock and Johnson offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize September 22-28, 2019, as Michigan
2 Rail Safety Week.

3 Whereas, The state of Michigan is a leader in supporting
4 highway-rail grade crossing and pedestrian safety programs; and

5 Whereas, Highway-rail grade crossing crashes are more severe
6 than highway collisions and are more likely to result in death or
7 injury; and

8 Whereas, In 2018, Michigan's highway-rail grade crossing
9 crashes resulted in one person killed and fifteen people injured;
10 and

11 Whereas, Also in 2018, Michigan's pedestrian/railroad trespass
12 incidents on railroad property resulted in six people killed and

1 six people injured; and

2 Whereas, Collisions between trains and other motor vehicles or
3 pedestrians can be prevented by increasing public awareness of the
4 dangers at railroad crossings and properties, as well as
5 appropriate safety laws; and

6 Whereas, Operation Lifesaver is the foremost public
7 information and education program dedicated to preventing highway-
8 rail grade crossing crashes and pedestrian/railroad trespass
9 incidents; and

10 Whereas, Michigan motorists and pedestrians are encouraged to
11 seek proper caution when near tracks and trains; now, therefore, be
12 it

13 Resolved by the Senate, That we recognize September 22-28,
14 2019, as Michigan Rail Safety Week; and be it further

15 Resolved, That we acknowledge the importance of improving
16 awareness of rail safety by ensuring pedestrians and motorists look
17 and listen while near railways. By informing the general public
18 about obeying established traffic laws, we can help prevent future
19 incidents.