

PREFACE

The ***COMPILATION OF STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON MATTERS AFFECTING HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSINGS, Fourth Edition*** makes a unique contribution to the highway-rail grade crossing safety literature.

This book represents the *Fourth Edition* of the original 1983 publication. Beginning with the *Second Edition*, a portion of the original title was changed from RAIL-HIGHWAY GRADE CROSSINGS to HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSINGS. The Second Edition, published in 1995 broadened the scope to include an examination of laws in the various states and the District of Columbia concerning trespassing on railroad facilities, vandalism to railroad property, and the degree of local government control, if any, over private crossings.

In the *Third Edition*, the parameters of the examination were again expanded to include two additional chapters covering vegetation clearance and photographic enforcement. These additional chapters reflect the increased concern among government policy makers, railroads, and state and regional transportation agencies regarding grade crossing safety as we usher in the era of the high-speed train. Additionally, the *Third Edition* added the *Uniform Vehicle Code* (UVC) as an appendix to serve as an additional resource and to provide a means of comparison. The *Uniform Vehicle Code* was first published in 1926 and designed as a specimen set of motor vehicle laws intended to be used as a model for states to adopt. It has been updated a number of times and continues to serve as a valuable framework for the development of state legislation.

Each chapter in this book represents a different subject area and each chapter's contents are discussed in an effort to provide the reader with a brief overview of the subject matter presented. The laws of each individual state and the District of Columbia concerning the subject matter are listed, either verbatim, or in many instances, paraphrased for clarity and better understanding. Each subject area is addressed from a practical orientation, making it an invaluable resource for a variety of users. Added to this *Fourth Edition* is a quick reference page to facilitate browsing.

Although, in most instances the book is written in everyday language for use by laymen, it is also intended to serve as a comprehensive legal reference and a practical tool for legislators, policymakers, and lawyers.

This book is available on the Internet at the Web site of the Federal Railroad Administration's Office of Safety.

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