

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

S.B. 316  
By: Wentworth  
Transportation  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The Federal Railroad Administration's Railroad Quiet Zone program aids governmental entities in reducing noise resulting from the routine sounding of train horns.

As proposed, S.B. 316 would allow certain general-law municipalities entirely surrounded by a municipality with a population of 1.1 million or more to enter into an interlocal agreement with that municipality for the establishment of a railroad quiet zone located outside the corporate boundaries of the general-law municipality. S.B. 316 would also authorize the general-law municipalities to expend municipal funds or issue certificates of obligation or bonds to pay for the expenses associated with the railroad quiet zone.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter C, Chapter 311, Transportation Code, by adding Section 311.054, as follows:

Sec. 311.054. RAILROAD QUIET ZONE LOCATED OUTSIDE TYPE A GENERAL-LAW MUNICIPALITY. (a) Provides that this section applies only to a Type A general-law municipality that is an enclave surrounded entirely by a municipality with a population of 1.1 million or more.

(b) Authorizes the governing body of the general-law municipality to enter into an interlocal contract with the surrounding municipality for the establishment of a railroad quiet zone located outside the boundaries of the general-law municipality that the governing body determines will benefit the general-law municipality.

(c) Authorizes a general-law municipality to expend municipal funds and issue certificates of obligation or bonds to pay for expenses associated with a railroad quiet zone under Subsection (b), including expenses related to feasibility, engineering, and traffic studies and improvements related to the railroad quiet zone.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2009.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2009