

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6512

AS OF FEBRUARY 7, 1994

**Brief Description:** Restricting the ringing of bells or sounding of whistles on locomotives.

**SPONSORS:** Senator Owen

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Staff:** Jeff Doyle (786-7322)

**Hearing Dates:** February 7, 1994

**BACKGROUND:**

Under current Washington law, it is a misdemeanor for an engineer driving a locomotive to fail to ring the bell or sound the whistle when at least 80 rods (1/4 mile) from a railroad crossing. There is no federal law requiring that train whistles or bells be sounded.

Locomotives traveling within cities are exempt from this law.

**SUMMARY:**

Counties may adopt ordinances restricting the sounding of locomotive whistles at gated railroad crossings within urban areas. The U.S. Census Bureau defines an "urban area" as any urban place having a population of more than 2,500.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** none requested