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SENATE BILL 6119

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 1st Special Session

By Senator Ericksen

Read first time 05/08/15.                      Referred to Committee on Energy,  
Environment & Telecommunications.

1            AN ACT Relating to private railroad crossings; and amending RCW  
2 81.53.---

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 81.53.--- and 2015 c . . . (ESHB 1449) s 22 are  
5 each amended to read as follows:

6            (1) To address the potential public safety hazards presented by  
7 private crossings in the state and by the transportation of hazardous  
8 materials in the state, including crude oil, the commission is  
9 authorized to and must adopt rules governing safety standards for  
10 private crossings along the railroad tracks over which crude oil is  
11 transported in the state. The commission is also authorized to  
12 conduct inspections of the private crossings subject to this section,  
13 to order the railroads to make improvements at the private crossings,  
14 and enforce the orders.

15            (2) The commission must adopt rules governing private crossings  
16 along railroad tracks over which crude oil is transported in the  
17 state, establishing:

18            (a) Minimum safety standards for the private crossings subject to  
19 this section, including, but not limited to, requirements for  
20 signage; and

1 (b) Criteria for prioritizing the inspection and improvements of  
2 the private crossings subject to this section.

3 (3) Nothing in this section modifies existing agreements between  
4 the railroad company and the landowner governing cost allocation for  
5 upgrades to private crossings or liability for injuries or damages  
6 occurring at the private crossing.

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