
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1698

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Kilduff, Muri, Farrell, Riccelli, Robinson, Jenkins, Senn, Fey, Macri, Tarleton, Pollet, and Stanford)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancing public health and safety by
2 implementing emergency preparedness guidance measures related to oil
3 train accidents; adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; and
4 creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that oil train
7 traffic in Washington state has increased in recent years. This
8 increase brings with it an increased risk of accidents, which may
9 involve spills, fires, and other associated hazards that are
10 injurious to the public's health and safety. An estimated seven
11 hundred seventy-five thousand Washingtonians are exposed to these
12 risks due to their proximity to train tracks that transport oil. The
13 legislature finds that citizen awareness and preparedness are
14 critical components in accident response. Accordingly, the
15 legislature intends to implement measures that will not only increase
16 the overall preparedness of the state to respond to its existing
17 hazards, but will specifically enhance community-based and citizen-
18 based preparation efforts, and will help ensure that local
19 communities and individuals are able to respond appropriately to
20 mitigate the public health and safety impacts associated with oil
21 train accidents.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The department must create public health emergency
4 preparedness guidance for oil train accidents and directly associated
5 hazards, including, but not limited to, explosions, fires, spills,
6 decreased water quality, and other known public health risks. The
7 public health emergency preparedness guidance must include, at a
8 minimum:

9 (a) Information targeted to the public describing the health
10 risks of the hazardous conditions commonly associated with oil train
11 accidents; and

12 (b) General guidance on steps citizens can take in response to
13 adverse health conditions created by an oil train accident.

14 (2) The public health emergency preparedness guidance must be
15 completed by December 1, 2018, and maintained on the department web
16 site.

17 (3) No later than January 1, 2020, the department must partner
18 with local public health authorities in localities through which oil
19 trains travel to deliver a public awareness and education outreach
20 program to increase awareness among individual citizens and local
21 communities of the potential health hazards associated with oil train
22 accidents.

23 (4) In developing the public health emergency preparedness
24 guidance and the public awareness and education outreach program, the
25 department shall consult and collaborate with local city and county
26 officials, local public health authorities, and local first
27 responders, including local emergency planning committees, in
28 localities through which oil trains travel.

29 (5) The public health emergency preparedness guidance and public
30 awareness and education outreach program must be complimentary to and
31 not in conflict with other efforts in the state to address emergency
32 response to oil train accidents and directly associated hazards.

33 (6) The department must submit a report to the appropriate
34 committees of the legislature no later than December 1st of each year
35 through the year 2020, regarding its progress toward development of
36 public health emergency preparedness guidance targeted to hazards
37 associated with oil train accidents, and its progress in developing

1 and delivering a public awareness and education outreach program,
2 under the timelines set forth in this section.

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