
HOUSE BILL 1698

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Kilduff, Muri, Farrell, Riccelli, Robinson,
Jenkins, and Senn

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 emergency preparedness guidance
4 for oil train accidents and directly associated hazards, including,
5 but not limited to, explosions, fires, spills, decreased water
6 quality, and other known public health risks. The emergency
7 preparedness guidance must establish:

8 (a) Effective methods of notifying citizens of an oil train
9 accident and any associated hazardous conditions;

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

13 (c) Guidance on what citizens should do in the event of hazardous
14 conditions created by an oil train accident.

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

17 (3) No later than January 1, 2020, the department must implement
18 a public awareness and education outreach program to increase
19 awareness among individual citizens and local communities of the
20 potential hazards associated with oil train accidents and of
21 appropriate response measures should an accident occur.

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

28 (5) The department must submit a report to the appropriate
29 committees of the legislature no later than December 1st of each year
30 through the year 2020, regarding its progress toward development of
31 emergency preparedness guidance targeted to hazards associated with
32 oil train accidents, and its progress in developing and delivering a
33 public awareness and outreach education program, under the timelines
34 set forth in this section.

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