

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6071

As of January 15, 2024

Title: An act relating to providing information related to the human rights records of nations that export crude oil to Washington.

Brief Description: Providing information related to the human rights records of nations that export crude oil to Washington.

Sponsors: Senator Salomon.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 1/17/24.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Directs the University of Washington to host a biennial symposium related to the human rights records of nations that export crude oil to Washington.
- Requires the Department of Ecology to develop and maintain a publicly accessible website on which it publishes a summary of information related to crude oil imported to Washington.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Staff: Alicia Kinne-Clawson (786-7407)

Background: University of Washington Center for Human Rights. The University of Washington Center for Human Rights was established by the Legislature in 2009. The mission of the center is to expand opportunities for Washington residents to receive a world-class education in human rights, generate research data and expert knowledge to enhance public and private policymaking, and become an academic center for human rights

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

teaching and research in the nation. Key substantive issues for the center include the rights of all persons to security against violence; the rights of immigrants, Native Americans, and ethnic or religious minorities; human rights and the environment; health as a human right; human rights and trade; the human rights of working people; and women's rights as human rights.

Crude Oil Reporting. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) currently publishes a quarterly report in compliance with ESHB 1449 (2015) which includes information about crude oil transported by rail, pipeline, and vessel into the state of Washington. Ecology is required to aggregate the information provided on a statewide basis by route, week, and type of crude oil. This information includes region of origin.

Summary of Bill: University of Washington Human Rights Symposium. The University of Washington (UW) must convene a biennial symposium related to the human rights records of nations that export crude oil to Washington. The topics the symposium must address include, but are not limited to:

- the human rights implications of Washington's consumption of crude oil;
- the global sources and changes in global sources of crude oil in Washington;
- the human rights records of the countries of origin of crude oil in Washington and how the revenues derived from crude oil impact the human rights records of these countries;
- recommendations about prioritizing purchases from certain countries based on human rights considerations; and
- potential state and federal policies to help ensure that core democratic values, including human rights, are upheld in Washington's oil consumption.

Following the symposium, UW must publish a written report that includes a brief accounting of the human rights records of the primary countries Washington obtains crude oil from. UW must develop and maintain a publicly accessible website where it publishes the proceedings of each human rights symposium.

Website on Crude Oil Imports. The Department of Ecology must develop and maintain a publicly accessible website with a summary of information related to crude oil imported to Washington.

This summary must include the name of each nation that each refinery operator in Washington has imported crude oil from and the volume imported by each refinery operator from the nations identified. Ecology must identify on the website that the UW conducts a biennial symposium related to the human rights records of nations that export oil to Washington.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 11, 2024.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.