

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6221

As of January 24, 2024

Title: An act relating to the Washington national primate research center at the University of Washington.

Brief Description: Concerning the Washington national primate research center at the University of Washington.

Sponsors: Senators Salomon, Stanford, Lias, Kuderer and Nobles.

Brief History:

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

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Washington National Primate Research Center to annually publish information about the nonhuman primates in its care and specifies what information must be included.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Staff: Alicia Kinne-Clawson (786-7407)

Background: The Washington National Primate Research Center (WaNPRC) is one of seven U.S. centers in the National Primate Research Center Program established by Congress in 1959. The WaNPRC conducts research on nonhuman primates that includes the neurobiological sciences, AIDS-related research, reproductive and developmental sciences, genomics, immunogenetics, nonhuman primate models for human diseases, international outreach and conservation, and the psychological well-being needs of its colonies.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

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.

Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute): The WaNPRC within the University of Washington must annually publish in a publicly accessible place on the website the following information:

- the number of nonhuman primates that were used in:
 1. research, breeding, born, purchased, or sold;
 2. injured or died in a manner that resulted in an animal welfare citation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA);
 3. killed or died as part of research; and
 4. other conditions as detailed in the bill; and
- links to descriptions of the research using nonhuman primates at the center;
- total amount of money awarded to the research center during the prior fiscal year;
- inspection reports from the USDA;
- conservation efforts; and
- documentation of accreditation.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 22, 2024.

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

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony On Proposed Substitute: PRO: We've seen a lack of transparency. This bill will help build trust and accountability while maintaining some accountability. It was clear that unintended infections were disrupting the colony and having significant impacts on the primates physical and mental health. The primate research community is knee deep in the wildlife trade of endangered populations. In October of 2022 the King county superior court awarded PETA over half million in damages for failure to disclose public documents. The withheld documents included things such as animal research deaths.

OTHER: The WaNPRC supports transparency. They already post several of the requirements provided for in the bill. We would like to see this bill align with the language in Oregon. Scientific research with primates is highly regulated federally.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Jesse Salomon, Prime Sponsor; Rachel Bjork; Hannah Thompson-Garner, Northwest Animal Rights Network (NARN); Lisa Jones-Engel, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals; Michele Earl-Hubbard; Gregory Engel.

OTHER: Morgan Hickel, University of Washington.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.