
SENATE BILL 5278

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Swecker, Haugen and Oke

Read first time 01/21/2003. Referred to Committee on Highways & Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to inspections of hazardous materials offered by
2 private shippers for transportation by rail; amending RCW 81.44.065;
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature that
6 this act clarify certain authorities of employees of the Washington
7 utilities and transportation commission. The legislature finds that
8 this act is necessary to ensure the continuance of existing safety
9 inspection programs. Further, this act does not create a new program
10 or authorize new authority, and will not result in the expansion of the
11 existing program.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 81.44.065 and 1961 c 14 s 81.44.065 are each amended
13 to read as follows:

14 The utilities and transportation commission shall exercise all
15 powers and duties in relation to the inspection of tracks, bridges,
16 structures, equipment, apparatus, and appliances of railroads with
17 respect to the safety of employees and the public and the
18 administration and enforcement of all laws providing for the protection

1 of the public and employees of railroads (~~which prior to~~) that before
2 April 1, 1955, were vested in and required to be performed by the
3 director of labor and industries.

4 A commission employee certified by the federal railroad
5 administration to perform hazardous materials inspections may enter the
6 property of any business that receives, ships, or offers for shipment
7 hazardous materials by rail, or that manufactures, marks, maintains,
8 reconditions, repairs, or tests containers that are represented,
9 marked, certified, or sold for use in the transportation of hazardous
10 materials by rail. Entry shall be at a reasonable time and in a
11 reasonable manner. The purpose of such entry is limited to performing
12 inspections, investigations, or surveillance of facilities, equipment,
13 records, and operations relating to the packaging, loading, or
14 transportation of hazardous materials by rail, pursuant only to the
15 state participation program outlined in Title 49 of the code of federal
16 regulations. The term "business" is all inclusive and is not limited
17 to common carriers or public service companies.

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