

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of HB 1449

Concerning Oil Transportation Safety

Evidence indicates that decreasing risks from oil spills on land and water would likely decrease risks to water quality and public health, particularly for communities of color, low-income communities, and populations with lower levels of educational attainment.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Representatives Farrell, Carlyle, Fitzgibbon, Ortiz-Self, Peterson, Walkinshaw, Gregerson, Senn, McBride, Robinson, Tarleton, Pollet, Cody, Ormsby, Riccelli, Kagi, Blake, Fey, Hudgins, Lytton, Bergquist, Sells, Takko, Tharinger, Jinkins, Wylie, S. Hunt, Stanford, Reykdal, Sawyer, Appleton, Van De Wege, Clibborn, Ryu, Goodman, Kilduff

Bill by request: Governor Inslee

Companion Bill: [SB 5087](#)

Summary of Health Impact Review Request:

The intent of HB 1449 is to prevent oil spills and to improve the ability of the state to respond to spills if they do occur. Representative Farrell requested that we conduct a review of how HB 1449, assuming that the provisions of the bill meet this intent, would impact public health and health disparities in Washington state.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This health impact review found the following evidence regarding the impacts of decreasing risks from oil spills on land and water:

- Strong evidence that decreasing risks from oil spills on land and water would decrease risks to public health.
 - Strong evidence that exposure to technical disasters such as train derailments and oil spills is associated with adverse mental health impacts.
 - Strong evidence that exposure to crude oil and its byproducts is associated with acute toxic symptoms such as headaches, eye irritation, nausea, and dizziness.
 - Strong evidence that exposure to crude oil and its byproducts is associated with acute respiratory symptoms and a fair amount of evidence that this exposure is associated with chronic respiratory symptoms.
 - A fair amount of evidence that spill response activities are associated with musculoskeletal disorders such as back injuries among response workers and volunteers.
- Very strong evidence that decreasing risks from oil spills on land and water would decrease risks to water quality.
- Very strong evidence that decreasing risks to water quality would decrease risks to public health (e.g. decreased risks of death, cancer, and damage to the liver, lungs, gastrointestinal track, endocrine system, and the central nervous system).
- Strong evidence that the decreased risks to public health would be particularly beneficial to communities of color, low-income communities, and populations with lower levels of educational attainment.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full health impact review: <http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2015-03-HB1449.pdf>

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