
HOUSE BILL 3270

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Woods, Kilmer, Jarrett, Morris, Skinner, Hankins and Haigh

Read first time 01/30/2006. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to passenger ferry service funding; amending RCW
2 47.60.645; adding new sections to chapter 47.60 RCW; and adding a new
3 section to chapter 47.66 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds and declares that there is a compelling need
8 for passenger-only ferry service on Puget Sound. The Bremerton to
9 Seattle, Southworth to Seattle, Vashon to Seattle, and Kingston to
10 Seattle routes are the routes currently in need of funding. As other
11 routes become viable for passenger-only ferry service, funding may be
12 provided to those routes as well.

13 It is the intent of the legislature to provide funding to
14 passenger-only ferry systems operated by Washington state ferries or
15 local governments through the sale or disposition of existing
16 Washington state ferries' passenger-only vessels. Until the funds
17 provided by the sale or disposition of these vessels become available,
18 it is the intent of the legislature to fund passenger-only ferry
19 systems from other available funds.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.60.645 and 1995 2nd sp.s. c 14 s 558 are each
2 amended to read as follows:

3 There is hereby established in the transportation fund the
4 passenger ferry account. Money in the account shall be used for
5 ~~((capital improvements for passenger ferry projects including, but not~~
6 ~~limited to, pedestrian and transit facilities at ferry terminals and~~
7 ~~passenger-only ferry vessels)) grants for passenger-only ferry systems
8 operated by Washington state ferries and for passenger-only ferry
9 systems operated or contracted for by local governments. Moneys in the
10 account shall be expended with legislative appropriation.~~

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) By January 1, 2007, the department shall sell or otherwise
14 dispose of the Washington state ferries Snohomish and Chinook for
15 market value and deposit the proceeds of the sales into the passenger
16 ferry account established under RCW 47.60.645.

17 (2) By April 1, 2007, the department shall sell or otherwise
18 dispose of the Washington state ferries Skagit and Kalama for market
19 value and deposit the proceeds of the sale into the passenger ferry
20 account established under RCW 47.60.645.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW
22 to read as follows:

23 (1) Passenger-only ferry systems operated or contracted for by
24 local governments on the Bremerton to Seattle, Southworth to Seattle,
25 and Kingston to Seattle routes are eligible for the grants provided in
26 RCW 47.60.645. Passenger-only ferry service provided by Washington
27 state ferries on the Vashon to Seattle route is also eligible for the
28 grants provided in RCW 47.60.645.

29 (2) The grants provided in RCW 47.60.645 shall be sufficient to
30 provide a reasonable rate of return and cover any costs of operating
31 the passenger-only ferry system that are not covered by fare or other
32 revenue.

33 (3) As a condition of receiving the grants provided in RCW
34 47.60.645, the passenger-only ferry systems operated or contracted for
35 by local governments shall coordinate their schedules with the

1 schedules of any Washington state ferries' auto ferries operating on
2 the same route so as to complement the auto ferry service rather than
3 compete against it.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The Washington state ferries and any passenger-only ferry
7 systems operated or contracted for by local governments that express
8 interest shall, in good faith, negotiate a mutually agreeable and
9 reasonable agreement regarding the shared use of Washington state
10 ferries' facilities at Southworth and Colman dock by September 1, 2006.

11 (2) The Washington state ferries and any passenger-only ferry
12 systems operated or contracted for by local governments that express
13 interest shall, in good faith, negotiate a mutually agreeable and
14 reasonable agreement regarding the shared use of Washington state
15 ferries' maintenance facilities by September 1, 2006.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 The Washington state ferries and the passenger-only ferry systems
19 operated or contracted for by local governments shall, in good faith,
20 negotiate a mutually agreeable and reasonable agreement establishing an
21 apprenticeship program by January 1, 2007. The apprenticeship program
22 shall include a system by which employees involved in the operation of
23 passenger-only ferry systems operated or contracted for by local
24 governments may become employees of Washington state ferries.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 47.66 RCW
26 to read as follows:

27 (1) In addition to the grants provided in RCW 47.60.645, the
28 department shall establish a passenger-only ferry grant program subject
29 to availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose.

30 (2) In providing grants under this section, the department may
31 enter into multiple-year contracts with a stipulation that allocations
32 for future years are subject to the availability of funding as provided
33 by legislative appropriation.

34 (3) Priority shall be given to grant applications that provide

1 continuity of existing passenger-only ferry service and the provision
2 of local or federal matching funds.

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