

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESHB 2509

C 3 L 96

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Funding maritime historic restoration and preservation.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Representatives Reams, Jacobsen, Radcliff, Basich, Kessler, Chopp, Dickerson, Hatfield, Poulsen and Murray; by request of Secretary of State).

House Committee on Government Operations
Senate Committee on Ecology & Parks

Background: Unless exempted, no person may own or operate a vessel on waters of the state unless the vessel has been registered. After paying a registration fee and the required excise tax, a person is issued a registration number and a decal for the vessel. Vessel registrations are renewable each year. It has been suggested that a number of vessel owners would voluntarily contribute to the restoration and preservation activities of the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport and the Steamer Virginia V Foundation at the time they register their vessels.

Summary: The Department of Licensing must provide people who are registering their vessels an opportunity to make voluntary donations to support the maritime historic restoration and preservation activities of the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport and the Steamer Virginia V Foundation.

A maritime historic restoration and preservation account is created in the custody of the State Treasurer. All voluntary donations made when people register their vessels are deposited into the account. The account is not subject to allotment reductions.

At the end of each fiscal year, the State Treasurer must pay the Department of Licensing an amount equal to its administrative expenses for collecting and transmitting the voluntary donations. The State Treasurer also deducts its reasonable administrative expenses for maintaining the account and disbursing the funds.

The State Treasurer, after deducting the administrative expenses, must pay one-half of the fund balance to the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport or its corporate successor and the other one-half of the fund balance to the Steamer Virginia V Foundation or its corporate successor. If either entity or its corporate successor ceases to exist, the State Treasurer must pay the entire balance of the funds to the remaining organization. If both entities and their corporate successors cease to exist, the Department of Licensing must discontinue collecting the voluntary donations, and any

funds in the account escheat to the state Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the parks renewal and stewardship account.

The Secretary of State, the directors of the state historical societies, the Director of the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and two members of the recreational boating community selected by the Secretary of State shall meet and report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of the program by January 31, 1998. The report must include findings on the potential to expand the voluntary funding to other historic vessels.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	96	0
Senate	47	0

Effective: June 6, 1996