

SSB 5207 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Transportation

ADOPTED 04/09/2007

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.68 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 The legislature finds that the freight sector provides thousands of
6 high-quality, well-paid jobs in Washington state and contributes
7 significantly to the economy of the state. The legislature further
8 finds that these benefits result despite the fact that freight makes up
9 a fraction of vehicle traffic on our roads and that the commercial
10 benefits of freight movement are compromised by the same congestion
11 that plagues general traffic.

12 The legislature also finds that as domestic and international
13 freight volumes grow, and our state's economy becomes increasingly
14 dependent on the one out of every three jobs supported by international
15 trade, there is growing need for system-wide funding solutions to
16 enhance a world class goods movement system that does not divert cargo
17 and jobs to Canada, Mexico, Panama, Oregon, California, and the east
18 coast of the United States. Accordingly, it is the intent of the
19 legislature to study a broad array of mechanisms to fund freight
20 congestion relief investments.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Subject to availability of amounts
22 appropriated for this specific purpose, the joint transportation
23 committee shall:

24 (a) Administer a consultant study of alternative funding mechanisms
25 to fund freight congestion relief investments. At a minimum, the study
26 must: (i) Evaluate potential funding sources for off-marine terminal
27 infrastructure projects, including federal, state, incentives, and
28 other project specific fees; (ii) analyze current taxes and fees paid
29 by the freight industry and the projects the taxes and fees fund; (iii)

1 assess other nonfreight related fees and taxes that could be used to
2 pay for freight congestion relief investments; (iv) assess how other
3 states and countries pay for freight congestion relief investments; and
4 (v) discuss the various approaches and their impacts on Washington
5 competitiveness in freight movement. The scope of the work for the
6 study may be expanded to include analysis of other issues relevant to
7 freight congestion relief funding; and

8 (b) Convene a stakeholder group composed of representatives to work
9 on the consultant study that includes: Two representatives of
10 container ports, one representative of trucking, one representative
11 from railroads, one representative from international shipping, one
12 representative from national shipping, two representatives of organized
13 labor, two representatives of the import/export community, one
14 representative from the department of transportation, one
15 representative from the freight mobility strategic investment board,
16 and other representatives as deemed necessary by the joint
17 transportation committee. The stakeholder group shall work with the
18 selected consultant in: (i) Identifying critical freight congestion
19 relief investments; (ii) identifying alternatives for a dedicated
20 funding source for freight congestion relief investments or user fees
21 to fund specific freight congestion relief investments; and (iii)
22 developing and reviewing a final consultant study.

23 (2) The consultant's draft report must be submitted to the
24 transportation committees of the legislature by December 15, 2007, with
25 the final findings and recommendations of the report being due prior to
26 the beginning of the 2008 legislative session.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires January 31, 2008."

28 Correct the title.

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