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SENATE BILL 6306

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Senator Snyder

Read first time 01/24/92. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Puget Island ferry; and amending RCW  
2 47.56.720.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.56.720 and 1987 c 368 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that the ferry operated by Wahkiakum  
7 county between Puget Island and Westport on the Columbia river provides  
8 service which is primarily local in nature with secondary benefits to  
9 the state highway system in providing a bypass for state route 4 and  
10 providing the only crossing of the Columbia river between the Astoria-  
11 Megler bridge and the Longview bridge.

12 (2) The department is hereby authorized to enter into a continuing  
13 agreement with Wahkiakum county pursuant to which the department shall  
14 pay to Wahkiakum county from moneys appropriated for such purpose ((the

1 ~~sum of one thousand dollars per month))~~ amounts not to exceed eighty  
2 percent of the operating and maintenance deficit with a maximum not to  
3 exceed the amount appropriated for that biennium to be used in the  
4 operation and maintenance of the Puget Island ferry, commencing July 1,  
5 ((1971)) 1992.

6 Subject to the provisions of subsection (4) of this section, the  
7 department is authorized to include in the continuing agreement a  
8 provision to reimburse Wahkiakum county for eighty percent of the  
9 deficit incurred during each previous fiscal year in the operation and  
10 maintenance of the ferry(~~(, commencing with the fiscal year ending June~~  
11 ~~30, 1987. The state's eighty percent share of the annual operating and~~  
12 ~~maintenance deficit shall include the one thousand dollars per month~~  
13 ~~authorized in this subsection))~~).

14 (3) The annual deficit, if any, incurred in the operation and  
15 maintenance of the ferry shall be determined by Wahkiakum county  
16 subject to the approval of the department. If eighty percent of the  
17 deficit for the preceding fiscal year exceeds the total amount paid to  
18 the county for that year, the additional amount shall be paid to the  
19 county by the department upon the receipt of a properly executed  
20 voucher. The total of all payments to the county in any biennium shall  
21 not exceed the amount appropriated for that biennium. The fares  
22 established by the county shall be comparable to those used for similar  
23 runs on the state ferry system.

24 (4) Whenever, subsequent to June 9, 1977, state route 4 between  
25 Cathlamet and Longview is closed to traffic pursuant to chapter 47.48  
26 RCW due to actual or potential slide conditions and there is no  
27 suitable, reasonably short alternate state route provided, Wahkiakum  
28 county is authorized to operate the Puget Island ferry on a toll-free  
29 basis during the entire period of such closure. The state's share of

1 the ferry operations and maintenance deficit during such period shall  
2 be one hundred percent.

3 (5) Whenever state route 4 between Cathlamet and Longview is closed  
4 to traffic, as mentioned in subsection (4) hereof, the state of  
5 Washington shall provide temporary rest room facilities at the  
6 Washington ferry landing terminal.