
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2734

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Huff, Lantz, Zellinsky, K. Schmidt, Johnson, Gardner, Constantine, Eickmeyer, Chopp and Poulsen

Read first time 01/19/98. Referred to Committee on Transportation Policy & Budget.

1 AN ACT Relating to additional state ferry vessels; adding new
2 sections to chapter 47.60 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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 the construction of additional state ferry vessels and
9 corresponding terminal improvements in order to provide more capacity
10 and frequent service to meet the forecasted travel demands of citizens
11 traveling on Puget Sound ferry routes. The vessel technology required
12 must provide additional travel options for high growth ferry routes
13 through increased passenger-only ferry service.

14 The 1989 west corridor study evaluated cross-sound travel through
15 the year 2020 and identified the Southworth to Seattle and the Kingston
16 to Seattle passenger-only ferry routes as promising based on criteria
17 evaluating cost effectiveness, time savings, physical constraints to
18 operation, nonduplication of current service, and ability to relieve
19 congestion.

1 Furthermore, as a result of legislative direction provided in the
2 1991-93 transportation budget to the state transportation commission to
3 evaluate and determine the location of new passenger-only ferry routes,
4 the commission reviewed several service alternatives, determined that
5 the Southworth to Seattle and Kingston to Seattle routes ranked
6 highest, and directed the Washington state ferries to proceed with the
7 design and permitting processes for passenger-only terminals at both
8 Southworth and Kingston.

9 The legislature also finds and declares that there is a compelling
10 need for the construction of a Jumbo Class Mark II ferry vessel. The
11 long-range travel demand for trips from Central and North Kitsap
12 Peninsula to the Seattle and Edmonds mainland ferry terminals indicate
13 a one hundred twenty-two percent forecast increase in peak travel
14 demand over the next twenty years between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and
15 7:00 p.m. In order to support the economic growth of the Puget Sound
16 region and meet the forecasted citizen cross-sound travel demand, the
17 Washington state ferry system must provide reliable ferry vessel
18 operations that cannot be maintained with the existing aging super
19 class ferry capacity.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW
21 to read as follows:

22 (1) The department is authorized to proceed with the acquisition,
23 procurement, and construction of a maximum of: (a) Four passenger-only
24 vessels that respond to the service demands of state ferry service on
25 the Southworth to Seattle and Kingston to Seattle ferry routes,
26 including the terminal and docking facilities necessary to accommodate
27 such service; and (b) a Jumbo Class Mark II ferry. The acquisition,
28 procurement, and construction of vessels and terminals authorized
29 herein shall be undertaken in accordance with the authority provided in
30 RCW 47.56.030.

31 (2) A Jumbo Class Mark II ferry constructed under the requirements
32 of subsection (1) of this section shall be of comparable quality and
33 design as, and shall incorporate like controls, engines, and a
34 propulsion system utilized in, the Jumbo Class Mark II ferries
35 presently in operation or under construction in order to promote
36 maximum commonality with those vessels.

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

3 The department's authority to proceed with the acquisition,
4 procurement, and construction of vessels and terminals authorized under
5 section 2 of this act is contingent on a legislative appropriation
6 approving that authority.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
9 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
10 immediately.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If this act is not referred to by bill or
12 chapter number in a transportation budget, or an omnibus appropriations
13 act, that, by December 31, 1998, either becomes law under Article III,
14 section 12 of the state Constitution or is approved by the people of
15 this state, this act is null and void on December 31, 1998.

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