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

11 The department is authorized to proceed with the acquisition,
12 procurement, and construction of a maximum of four passenger-only
13 vessels that respond to the service demands of state ferry service on
14 the Southworth to Seattle and Kingston to Seattle ferry routes,
15 including the terminal and docking facilities necessary to accommodate
16 such service. The acquisition, procurement, and construction of
17 vessels and terminals authorized herein shall be undertaken in
18 accordance with the authority provided in RCW 47.56.030.

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

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

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
27 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
28 immediately.

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

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