
SENATE BILL 6037

State of Washington **55th Legislature** **1997 Regular Session**

By Senators Spanel, Haugen and Kohl

Read first time 03/03/97. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to marine transportation between the state of
2 Washington and British Columbia, Canada; amending RCW 47.60.330;
3 creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) The transportation of passengers, vehicles, and commodities on
7 the Washington state ferries between the state of Washington and
8 British Columbia, Canada is an important element of the state's
9 economy;

10 (2) Spending by out-of-state visitors and Washington residents
11 traveling within the state creates jobs, contributes to personal and
12 business income, and generates tax revenue for state and local
13 government services; and

14 (3) The ferry route between Anacortes and Sidney, British Columbia
15 is a vital link in the state transportation system for commercial and
16 recreational travel.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.60.330 and 1983 c 15 s 26 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

1 (1) Before a substantial expansion or curtailment in the level of
2 service provided to ferry users, or a revision in the schedule of ferry
3 tolls or charges, the department of transportation shall consult with
4 affected ferry users. The consultation shall be: (a) By public
5 hearing in affected local communities; (b) by review with the affected
6 ferry advisory committees pursuant to RCW 47.60.310; (c) by conducting
7 a survey of affected ferry users; or (d) by any combination of (a)
8 through (c) of this subsection.

9 (2) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1) of this
10 section, the department of transportation shall consider the economic
11 impact on the state and the local community before any reduction in the
12 level of service provided on ferry routes between the state and British
13 Columbia, Canada.

14 (3) There is created a ferry system productivity council consisting
15 of a representative of each ferry advisory committee empanelled under
16 RCW 47.60.310, elected by the members thereof, and two representatives
17 of employees of the ferry system appointed by mutual agreement of all
18 of the unions representing ferry employees, which shall meet from time
19 to time with ferry system management to discuss means of improving
20 ferry system productivity.

21 (~~(3)~~) (4) Before increasing ferry tolls the department of
22 transportation shall consider all possible cost reductions with full
23 public participation as provided in subsection (1) of this section and,
24 consistent with public policy, shall consider adapting service levels
25 equitably on a route-by-route basis to reflect trends in and forecasts
26 of traffic usage. Forecasts of traffic levels shall be developed by
27 the bond covenant traffic engineering firm appointed under the
28 provisions of RCW 47.60.450. Provisions of this section shall not
29 alter obligations under RCW 47.60.450. Before including any toll
30 increase in a budget proposal by the commission, the department of
31 transportation shall consult with affected ferry users in the manner
32 prescribed in subsection (1)(b) of this section plus the procedure of
33 either subsection (1) (a) or (c) of this section.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
35 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
2 immediately.

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