

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2617

As Reported By House Committee On:
Transportation

Title: An act relating to vessels providing excursion services.

Brief Description: Studying excursion cruise services.

Revised for 1st Substitute: Extending regulation of excursion cruise services.

Sponsors: Representatives Radcliff and Morris.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 1/25/00, 1/27/00 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Extends the current requirement that only carriers with a certificate of public convenience and necessity may provide vessel excursion service in Washington.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 22 members: Representatives Fisher, Democratic Co-Chair; Mitchell, Republican Co-Chair; Cooper, Democratic 1st Vice Chair; Edwards, Democratic 2nd Vice Chair; Ericksen, Republican Vice Chair; Hankins, Republican Vice Chair; Fortunato; Haigh; Hatfield; Hurst; Lovick; McDonald; Mielke; Ogden; Pflug; Radcliff; Romero; Schindler; Scott; Skinner; Wood and Woods.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative Morris.

Staff: Paul Neal (786-7315).

Background:

In 1995, the Legislature passed Chapter 361, Laws of 1995, which enacted a limited prohibition against any vessel owner providing excursion service in Washington unless

the owner had obtained a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Utilities and Transportation Commission. The 1995 law was set to expire on January 1, 2001.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

Extends the current limited prohibition on excursion service until July 1, 2002.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: The original bill's direction to the Legislative Transportation Committee to convene a task force to study the regulatory policy of distinguishing between excursion and regularly scheduled vessel service was deleted.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Extension of the limitation is necessary to provide for the time needed to study the policy for distinguishing between excursion service and regularly scheduled ferry service.

Testimony Against: Overnight cruise ship operators were concerned that the study not be construed to include their activities.

Testified: (Support) Jim Boldt, Clipper Navigation; and Paul Curl, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

(With concerns) Randy Ray, U.S. Cruise Ship Association.