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HOUSE BILL 2113

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State of Washington                      57th Legislature                      2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Marine and Mielke

Read first time 02/14/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to ferry surcharges; and amending RCW 47.60.326.

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

3            **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.60.326 and 1999 c 94 s 27 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5            (1) In order to maintain an adequate, fair, and economically sound  
6 schedule of charges for the transportation of passengers, vehicles, and  
7 commodities on the Washington state ferries, the department of  
8 transportation each year shall conduct a full review of such charges.

9            (2) Prior to February 1st of each odd-numbered year the department  
10 shall transmit to the transportation commission a report of its review  
11 together with its recommendations for the revision of a schedule of  
12 charges for the ensuing biennium. The commission on or before July 1st  
13 of that year shall adopt as a rule, in the manner provided by the  
14 Washington administrative procedure act, a schedule of charges for the  
15 Washington state ferries for the ensuing biennium commencing July 1st.  
16 The schedule may initially be adopted as an emergency rule if necessary  
17 to take effect on, or as near as possible to, July 1st.

1 (3) The department in making its review and formulating  
2 recommendations and the commission in adopting a schedule of charges  
3 may consider any of the following factors:

4 (a) The amount of subsidy available to the ferry system for  
5 maintenance and operation;

6 (b) The time and distance of ferry runs;

7 (c) The maintenance and operation costs for ferry runs with a  
8 proper adjustment for higher costs of operating outmoded or less  
9 efficient equipment;

10 (d) The efficient distribution of traffic between cross-sound  
11 routes;

12 (e) The desirability of reasonable commutation rates for persons  
13 using the ferry system to commute daily to work;

14 (f) The effect of proposed fares in increasing walk-on and  
15 vehicular passenger use;

16 (g) The effect of proposed fares in promoting all types of ferry  
17 use during nonpeak periods;

18 (h) Such other factors as prudent managers of a major ferry system  
19 would consider.

20 (4) If at any time during the biennium it appears that projected  
21 revenues from the Puget Sound ferry operations account and any other  
22 operating subsidy available to the Washington state ferries will be  
23 less than the projected total cost of maintenance and operation of the  
24 Washington state ferries for the biennium, the department shall  
25 forthwith undertake a review of its schedule of charges to ascertain  
26 whether or not the schedule of charges should be revised. The  
27 department shall, upon completion of its review report, submit its  
28 recommendation to the transportation commission which may in its sound  
29 discretion revise the schedule of charges as required to meet necessary  
30 maintenance and operation expenditures of the ferry system for the  
31 biennium or may defer action until the regular annual review and  
32 revision of ferry charges as provided in subsection (2) of this  
33 section.

34 (5) The schedule of charges adopted under this section must include  
35 a local impact surcharge to be assessed in addition to the base tariff  
36 amounts. A twenty-five cent surcharge must be assessed on each ticket  
37 sold by the ferry system for passage on a Washington state ferry.

38 (a) The surcharge collected from tickets purchased on a route must  
39 be placed in a separate account and divided equally between the cities

1 or towns that the ferry route travels between. If a ferry terminal for  
2 a route is not in an incorporated city or town, the surcharge  
3 distribution must be made to the county containing the terminal.

4 (b) The local government entity receiving revenue from the  
5 surcharge assessed under this subsection shall use the proceeds to  
6 mitigate the local roadway and parking impacts of vehicle traffic from  
7 ferries.

8 (6) The provisions of RCW 47.60.330 relating to public  
9 participation shall apply to the process of revising ferry tolls under  
10 this section.

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