
HOUSE BILL 2527

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Wallace, Blake and Hatfield; by request of Department of Transportation

Read first time 01/15/2004. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Puget Island ferry; and amending RCW
2 47.56.720.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.56.720 and 1992 c 82 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that the ferry operated by Wahkiakum
7 county between Puget Island and Westport on the Columbia river provides
8 service which is primarily local in nature with secondary benefits to
9 the state highway system in providing a bypass for state route 4 and
10 providing the only crossing of the Columbia river between the Astoria-
11 Megler bridge and the Longview bridge.

12 (2) The department is hereby authorized to enter into a continuing
13 agreement with Wahkiakum county pursuant to which the department shall
14 pay to Wahkiakum county from moneys appropriated for such purpose
15 monthly amounts not to exceed eighty percent of the operating and
16 maintenance deficit with a maximum not to exceed the amount
17 appropriated for that biennium to be used in the operation and
18 maintenance of the Puget Island ferry, commencing July 1, 1992.

1 (3) The annual deficit, if any, incurred in the operation and
2 maintenance of the ferry shall be determined by Wahkiakum county
3 subject to the approval of the department. If eighty percent of the
4 deficit for the preceding fiscal year exceeds the total amount paid to
5 the county for that year, the additional amount shall be paid to the
6 county by the department upon the receipt of a properly executed
7 voucher. The total of all payments to the county in any biennium shall
8 not exceed the amount appropriated for that biennium. The fares
9 established by the county shall be comparable to those used for similar
10 runs on the state ferry system.

11 (4) Whenever(~~(, subsequent to June 9, 1977,)~~): (a) State route 4
12 between Cathlamet and Longview is closed to traffic pursuant to chapter
13 47.48 RCW due to actual or potential slide conditions and there is no
14 suitable, reasonably short alternate state route provided, or (b) the
15 Longview-Rainier bridge or the Astoria-Megler bridge is closed due to
16 emergency conditions, Wahkiakum county is authorized to operate the
17 Puget Island ferry on a toll-free basis during the entire period of
18 such closure. The state's share of the ferry operations and
19 maintenance deficit during such period shall be one hundred percent.

20 (5) Whenever state route 4 between Cathlamet and Longview is closed
21 to traffic, as mentioned in subsection (4) hereof, the state of
22 Washington shall provide temporary rest room facilities at the
23 Washington ferry landing terminal.

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