

ESSB 6787 - H AMD 1181

By Representative Woods

FAILED 03/08/2006

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 The legislature finds and declares that there is a compelling need
6 for passenger-only ferry service on Puget Sound. The Bremerton to
7 Seattle, Southworth to Seattle, Vashon to Seattle, and Kingston to
8 Seattle routes are the routes currently in need of funding. As other
9 routes become viable for passenger-only ferry service, funding may be
10 provided to those routes as well.

11 It is the intent of the legislature to provide funding to
12 passenger-only ferry systems operated by Washington state ferries or
13 local governments through the sale or disposition of existing
14 Washington state ferries' passenger-only vessels. Until the funds
15 provided by the sale or disposition of these vessels become available,
16 it is the intent of the legislature to fund passenger-only ferry
17 systems from other available funds.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.60.645 and 1995 2nd sp.s. c 14 s 558 are each
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (1) There is hereby established in the transportation fund the
21 passenger ferry account. Money in the account shall be used for
22 ((capital improvements for passenger ferry projects including, but not
23 limited to, pedestrian and transit facilities at ferry terminals and
24 passenger-only ferry vessels)) grants for passenger-only ferry systems
25 operated by Washington state ferries and for passenger-only ferry
26 systems operated or contracted for by local governments. Moneys in the
27 account shall be expended with legislative appropriation.

28 (2) The transportation commission shall administer this ferry grant

1 program subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
2 specific purpose.

3 (3) In providing grants under this section, the transportation
4 commission may enter into multiple-year contracts with a stipulation
5 that allocations for future years are subject to the availability of
6 funding as provided by legislative appropriation.

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 By January 1, 2007, the department shall sell or otherwise dispose
10 of the Washington state ferries Snohomish and Chinook for market value
11 and deposit the proceeds of the sales into the passenger ferry account
12 established under RCW 47.60.645.

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) Passenger-only ferry systems operated or contracted for by
16 local governments on the Bremerton to Seattle, Southworth to Seattle,
17 and Kingston to Seattle routes are eligible for the grants provided in
18 RCW 47.60.645.

19 (2) As a condition of receiving the grants provided in RCW
20 47.60.645, the passenger-only ferry systems operated or contracted for
21 by local governments shall coordinate their schedules with the
22 schedules of any Washington state ferries' auto ferries operating on
23 the same route so as to complement the auto ferry service rather than
24 compete against it.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW
26 to read as follows:

27 The Washington state ferries and any passenger-only ferry systems
28 operated or contracted for by local governments that express interest
29 shall, in good faith, negotiate a mutually agreeable and reasonable
30 agreement regarding the shared use of Washington state ferries'
31 facilities at Colman dock by September 1, 2006.

32 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW
33 to read as follows:

34 The department shall maintain the level of service existing on

1 January 1, 2006, for the Vashon to Seattle passenger-only ferry route
2 until the earlier of July 1, 2007, or when the legislature approves
3 assumption of the route as authorized in section 7 of this act.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) A county with a population greater than one million persons and
7 having a boundary on Puget Sound, a county to the west of Puget Sound
8 with a population greater than two hundred thirty thousand, but less
9 than three hundred thousand persons, or Washington state ferries may
10 assume a passenger-only ferry route between Vashon and Seattle,
11 including an expansion of that route to include Southworth after
12 submitting a complete business plan to the transportation commission.
13 The transportation commission shall review any business plans submitted
14 and recommend to the legislature the most viable business plan.

15 (2) The business plan must, at a minimum, include hours of
16 operation, vessel needs, labor needs, proposed routes, passenger
17 terminal facilities, passenger rates, anticipated federal and local
18 funding, coordination with the Washington state ferry system,
19 coordination with existing transit providers, long-term operation and
20 maintenance needs, and a long-term financial plan.

21 (3) In order to be considered for assuming the route, operations
22 must begin by July 1, 2007.

23 (4) For the purposes of this section, Puget Sound is considered as
24 extending north to Admiralty Inlet."

25 Correct the title.

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