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**Transportation Committee**

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**HB 1134**

**Brief Description:** Providing for reduction of ferry charges.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Appleton, Jarrett, Cody, Haigh, McDermott, Rolfes and Lantz.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Increases gas tax distribution to ferries operating account by approximately one-half cent.
- Allows the Transportation Commission to consider the increased gas tax distribution solely for the reduction of ferry fares.

**Hearing Date:** 1/22/07

**Staff:** Teresa Berntsen (786-7301).

**Background:**

Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Distribution:

The state motor vehicle fuel tax is distributed to various accounts and programs. The Puget Sound Ferry Operations Account, which funds the operation of the Department of Transportation, Ferries Divisions (WSF), receives a percentage distribution equivalent to approximately 0.54 cents per gallon of the motor vehicle fuel tax. The Motor Vehicle Fund receives a percentage distribution equivalent to approximately 10.2 cents per gallon to be used for highway purposes.

Ferry Fare Setting:

Fares for WSF ferries are set by the Transportation Commission. The Department of Transportation (DOT) must review ferry fares annually and report its recommendations to the Transportation Commission. State law lists a number of factors this review may consider.

**Summary of Bill:**

The motor vehicle fuel tax distribution to the Puget Sound Ferry Operations Account is increased from a percentages rate equivalent to approximately 0.54 cents per gallon to a percentages rate

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equivalent to approximately 1 cent per gallon. The distribution to the Motor Vehicle Fund is proportionately decreased.

When reviewing fares and formulating recommendations to the Transportation Commission, the DOT may consider the amount of subsidy made available by this increased gas tax distribution solely for the reduction of ferry fares.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on 1/15/07.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.