
Transportation Committee

HB 2730

Brief Description: Addressing the provision of ferry service by port districts.

Sponsors: Representatives Rolfes, Appleton and Hudgins.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Expands the areas in which port districts may offer ferry service to include the Puget Sound.
- Expands eligibility for the ferry grant program to include passenger only ferry systems operated by port districts.
- Adds port districts to the passenger only ferry service providers with which the Washington State Ferries system must collaborate for terminal operations.

Hearing Date: 1/21/08

Staff: David Munnecke (786-7315).

Background:

In 2006, the Department of Transportation (WSDOT) was directed to establish a grant program to provide operating or capital grants for passenger only ferries (POF) operated by counties, county ferry districts, and public transportation benefit districts. At the same time, the Washington State Ferries (WSF) was required to collaborate with counties, county ferry districts, and public transportation benefit districts offering POF service for terminal operations at WSF's existing terminals.

Port districts currently may acquire, lease, construct, purchase, maintain, and operate passenger carrying vessels on interstate navigable rivers of Washington and intrastate waters of adjoining states.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The area in which port districts may offer ferry service is expanded to include the Puget Sound.

The types of entities eligible to receive grants for operating and capital expenditures from the ferry grant program are expanded to include POF systems operated by port districts.

Port districts are added to the list of POF service providers with which the WSF system must collaborate for terminal operations.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on 1/18/08.

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