

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 5088

As Passed House:
April 10, 2007

Title: An act relating to vehicles boarding ferries.

Brief Description: Regulating ferry queues.

Sponsors: By Senators Haugen, Swecker and Shin.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 3/15/07, 3/28/07 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 4/10/07, 87-11.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates a traffic infraction for blocking a residential driveway or moving in front of another vehicle in a queue while waiting to board a Washington State ferry.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 19 members: Representatives Clibborn, Chair; Flannigan, Vice Chair; Jarrett, Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Armstrong, Campbell, Dickerson, Eddy, Hailey, Hankins, Lovick, Rodne, Simpson, Springer, B. Sullivan, Takko, Upthegrove, Wallace and Wood.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 6 members: Representatives Schindler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Curtis, Ericksen, Hudgins, Kristiansen and Rolfes.

Staff: David Munnecke (786-7315).

Background:

Vehicles using the state ferry system are loaded on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, in order to protect public health, safety and commerce, and to encourage more efficient use of the ferry system, preferential loading privileges are granted to certain classes of vehicles

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according to rules adopted by the Washington State Ferries. This includes emergency vehicles, school buses, and public transit vehicles.

Summary of Bill:

It is a traffic infraction for a driver of a motor vehicle intending to board a Washington State ferry to: (1) block a residential driveway while waiting to board the ferry; or (2) move in front of another vehicle in a queue already waiting to board the ferry without the authorization of a state ferry system employee. Vehicles qualifying for preferential loading privileges are exempt from these requirements as are vehicles waiting to board the Keller Ferry on State Route 21. For a vehicle which moves in front of another vehicle, there is an additional penalty that requires the driver to move his or her vehicle to the end of the ferry queue.

Violations of the prohibitions on blocking residential driveways and moving in front of another vehicle in a queue waiting to board a ferry will not become a part of the driver's driving record.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) There needs to be an added deterrent to prevent people from cutting in line for a ferry. Currently people are willing to risk getting caught cutting in line because the only penalty is being sent to the back of the line.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Brian Ursino, Washington State Patrol.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.