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HOUSE BILL 1421

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Hasegawa, Chandler, Eddy, and White

Read first time 01/21/09. Referred to Committee on Local Government & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to a feasibility study of a Puget Sound port  
2 authority; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The Washington state institute for public  
5 policy shall conduct a feasibility study of creating a Puget Sound port  
6 authority. The purpose of the study is to determine whether creation  
7 of an integrated and unified port authority will meet and exceed the  
8 operational productivity and financial performance metrics of global  
9 and domestic peer ports as well as provide value to taxpayers through  
10 economies of scale and administrative efficiencies. Within one year of  
11 the effective date of this section, the institute shall submit to the  
12 governor and legislature a feasibility study detailing how a Puget  
13 Sound port authority that includes the boundaries of a port district  
14 located in a county with a population of one million five hundred  
15 thousand persons or more and any port district located in an adjoining  
16 county with a population of over five hundred thousand persons will  
17 significantly enhance Washington state's global marine, air, and rail  
18 freight transportation competitiveness with other global and domestic

1 ports and increase international trade commerce providing broad  
2 economic benefits to the citizens of the state. The study must  
3 include, but is not limited to, the following elements:

4 (1) An analysis of the management and operational structure of port  
5 districts included in the boundaries of a Puget Sound port authority  
6 and how a reorganization plan can be implemented in a phased manner  
7 over a five-year period;

8 (2) How a Puget Sound port authority will maximize and expand  
9 freight transportation capital facilities to significantly increase  
10 global marine, air, and rail freight transportation infrastructure  
11 capacity, including performance metrics to assess capital facilities  
12 utilization and productivity;

13 (3) How a Puget Sound port authority can include the evaluation and  
14 application of environmental technologies and practices to mitigate  
15 potential adverse impacts;

16 (4) Recommendations on development of a strategic global marketing  
17 plan to increase global and domestic market share for North American  
18 markets for both inbound and outbound global freight transportation  
19 traffic volume and commodity dollar value, including clearly  
20 identifiable targeted markets and market penetration performance goals  
21 and metrics; and

22 (5) The institute shall develop a peer index of global and national  
23 ports documenting past traffic volume and forecast traffic volume over  
24 the next ten years, overseas marketing networks both inbound and  
25 outbound, services offered, and financial performance over the past ten  
26 years. This index must be used by the institute to evaluate the  
27 possible future performance of a Puget Sound port authority.

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