

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5406

As of February 10, 2011

Title: An act relating to improving and measuring performance of the management of the state ferry system.

Brief Description: Concerning the performance of state ferry system management.

Sponsors: Senators Haugen, Sheldon, Hobbs, Prentice and Shin.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/01/11.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Janice Baumgardt (786-7319)

Background: The Legislature has directed the Washington State Ferry system (WSF) to adopt adaptive management practices in its operating and capital programs in order to keep costs as low as possible, maximize utilization of existing assets, and continuously improve the quality and timeliness of service.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute): Criteria is established for developing performance measures. Management is defined as the Secretary of Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the Assistant Secretary of WSF, and all direct reports to the Assistant Secretary.

The WSF Accountability Board (WSFAB) is established and consists of members representing ferry user groups, the Legislature, and the executive branch. The WSFAB must develop performance measures and target goals. WSF must meet a certain percent of these targets by June 30, 2013. If the targets are not met, the Governor must use that information to evaluate the performance of the secretary of WSDOT, and the secretary of WSDOT must use that information to evaluate the performance of the assistant secretary of WSF. The WSFAB must make a recommendation to the Joint Transportation Committee whether to bid out management functions and offer any other suggestions to improve WSF performance.

This act is null and void if SB 5405 is not enacted. This act expires December 31, 2013.

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.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: Yes.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill is needed to save the ferry system as it has become unaffordable and is essential before new revenue can be raised.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Walt Elliot, Ferry Advisory Committee.