

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 6081

C 78 L 12
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Authorizing counties and ferry districts operating ferries to impose a vessel replacement surcharge on ferry fares sold.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen, Swecker, Ranker, King, Hatfield, Becker, Ericksen, Nelson, Regala and Shin).

Senate Committee on Transportation
House Committee on Transportation

Background: Under current law, counties may construct, operate, and maintain ferries, and related capital facilities necessary to operate the ferries, on certain waters within or bordering their boundaries. The ferry service may be free or for toll.

Additionally, counties may create ferry districts, which are separate taxing districts created within the county to operate passenger-only ferry service. Ferry districts are authorized to impose regular and excess property taxes, and may provide the ferry service free or for toll.

Summary: Counties operating ferry service, either directly or through a county ferry district, may impose a vessel replacement surcharge on ferry fares. The surcharge must at least be equal to the surcharge amount included in Washington State ferry fares, which is currently \$0.25 per fare. Revenue generated from the surcharge may be used only for the construction or purchase of ferry vessels. The surcharge must be clearly indicated, if possible on the fare media itself.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	44	3	
House	81	16	(House amended)
Senate			(Senate refused to concur)
House	80	17	(House receded)

Effective: June 7, 2012

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