

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6579

As of February 3, 2012

Title: An act relating to the public disclosure of evaluation and testing materials for vessel pilots.

Brief Description: Concerning the public disclosure of evaluation and testing materials for vessel pilots.

Sponsors: Senators Haugen and Shin.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/02/12.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7403)

Background: Under current law, the Board of Pilotage Commissioners (Board) must provide for the maintenance of efficient and competent pilotage service on the waters of the Puget Sound pilotage district and the Grays Harbor pilotage district. To this end, the Board examines the proficiency of potential pilots, licenses pilots, enforces the use of pilots, sets pilotage rates, investigates reported accidents involving pilots, keeps records of various matters affecting pilotage, and performs various other duties as required by law.

The state Public Records Act generally requires state and local agencies to disclose public records upon request, absent a specific legal exemption. One such exemption specifically addresses test questions, scoring keys, and other examination data used to administer a license, employment, or academic examination.

Summary of Bill: A new exemption is added to the Public Records Act exempting from disclosure certain examination data used to develop or administer any examination or test conducted or given by or under the authority of the state Board.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Marine pilot trainees are tested on many vessel-related questions. However, there are only a limited amount of test questions available. Disclosing this information makes it very difficult and costly to properly license pilots.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Lee Reaves, Puget Sound Pilots, representing the Pilotage Commission.