
SENATE BILL 6380

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senator O'Ban

Read first time 01/23/14. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to deficit reimbursement agreements with counties
2 owning and operating ferry systems; and amending RCW 47.56.725.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.56.725 and 1999 c 269 s 12 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The department is hereby authorized to enter into a continuing
7 agreement with Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties pursuant to which
8 the department shall, from time to time, direct the distribution to
9 each of the counties the amounts authorized in subsection (2) of this
10 section in accordance with RCW 46.68.090.

11 (2) The department is authorized to include in each agreement a
12 provision for the distribution of funds to each county to reimburse the
13 county for fifty percent of the deficit incurred during each previous
14 fiscal year in the operation and maintenance of the ferry system owned
15 and operated by the county. The total amount to be reimbursed to
16 Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties collectively shall not exceed one
17 million eight hundred thousand dollars in (~~any~~) the 2013-2015
18 biennium. For subsequent biennia, the amount authorized in this
19 section shall increase by the fiscal growth factor as defined in RCW

1 43.135.025. Each county agreement shall contain a requirement that the
2 county shall maintain tolls on its ferries at least equal to tolls in
3 place on January 1, (~~1990~~) 2013.

4 (3) The annual fiscal year operating and maintenance deficit, if
5 any, shall be determined by Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties
6 subject to review and approval of the department. The annual fiscal
7 year operating and maintenance deficit is defined as the total of
8 operations and maintenance expenditures less the sum of ferry toll
9 revenues and that portion of fuel tax revenue distributions which are
10 attributable to the county ferry as determined by the department.
11 Distribution of the amounts authorized by subsection (2) of this
12 section by the state treasurer shall be directed by the department upon
13 the receipt of properly executed vouchers from each county.

14 (4) The county road administration board may evaluate requests by
15 Pierce, Skagit, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom counties for county ferry
16 capital improvement funds. The board shall evaluate the requests and,
17 if approved by a majority of the board, submit the requests to the
18 legislature for funding out of the amounts available under RCW
19 46.68.090(~~(1)(j)~~) (2)(h). Any county making a request under this
20 subsection shall first seek funding through the public works trust
21 fund, or any other available revenue source, where appropriate.

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