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**HOUSE BILL 1257**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Hackney, Abbarno, and Reed

Read first time 01/12/23. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the authority of cargo and passenger ports;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 53.08 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Washington state ports were created to  
6 preserve public ownership of public resources, giving local  
7 governments the ability and statutory authority to support economic  
8 development for the public benefit.

9 (2) The legislature finds and declares that Washington public  
10 port districts that carry out or seek to carry out operations  
11 involving the movement of cargo or passengers are a vital part of the  
12 economy and trade infrastructure within the state.

13 (3) The legislature further finds that there is an important  
14 public purpose for qualified cargo and passenger ports to coordinate,  
15 reach agreement on, and implement all actions under their authority  
16 with other qualified cargo and passenger ports. The legislature  
17 intends by this act to grant qualified cargo and passenger ports with  
18 the authority to operate in furtherance of this public purpose,  
19 including the specified powers granted in this act relating to cargo  
20 and passenger transportation, without liability under federal  
21 antitrust laws.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 53.08  
2 RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) For the purpose of this section, "qualified cargo and  
4 passenger port" means a Washington public port district that carries  
5 out or seeks to carry out operations involving the movement of cargo  
6 or passengers or both.

7        (2) Qualified cargo and passenger ports have the power to  
8 coordinate, reach agreement on, and implement all actions under their  
9 authority with other qualified cargo and passenger ports. This  
10 includes the power to meet with qualified cargo and passenger ports  
11 and other port authorities to discuss and agree on issues of mutual  
12 interest relating to maritime operations, including:

13        (a) Rates and charges to be assessed at the qualified cargo and  
14 passenger ports;

15        (b) Rules, practices, and procedures relating to cargo and  
16 passenger service operations;

17        (c) Matters concerning the planning, development, management,  
18 marketing, operation, and use of their facilities; and

19        (d) Any other matters relating to cargo and passenger service  
20 operations.

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