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SENATE BILL 6518

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Rolfes and Nelson

Read first time 01/27/12. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the executive committee of Washington state  
2 ferry users; amending RCW 47.60.310 and 47.60.315; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature that the  
6 existing system for citizen involvement in the ferry fare rate-setting  
7 process is expanded to allow for a more deliberative and inclusive  
8 decision-making process.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.60.310 and 2010 c 8 s 10020 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1) The department is further directed to conduct such review by  
12 soliciting and obtaining expressions from local community groups in  
13 order to be properly informed as to problems being experienced within  
14 the area served by the Washington state ferries. In order that local  
15 representation may be established, the department shall give prior  
16 notice of the review to the ferry advisory committees.

17 (2) The legislative authorities of San Juan, Skagit, Clallam, and  
18 Jefferson counties shall each appoint a committee to consist of five

1 members to serve as an advisory committee to the department or its  
2 designated representative in such review. The legislative authorities  
3 of other counties that contain ferry terminals shall appoint ferry  
4 advisory committees consisting of three members for each terminal area  
5 in each county, except for Vashon Island, which shall have one  
6 committee, and its members shall be appointed by the Vashon/Maury  
7 Island community council. At least one person appointed to each ferry  
8 advisory committee shall be representative of an established ferry user  
9 group or of frequent users of the ferry system. Each member shall  
10 reside in the vicinity of the terminal that the advisory committee  
11 represents.

12 (3) The members of the San Juan, Clallam, and Jefferson county  
13 ferry advisory committees shall be appointed for four-year terms. The  
14 initial terms shall commence on July 1, 1982, and end on June 30, 1986.  
15 Any vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by  
16 the appointing authority. At least one person appointed to the  
17 advisory committee shall be representative of an established ferry-user  
18 group or of frequent users of the ferry system, at least one shall be  
19 representative of persons or firms using or depending upon the ferry  
20 system for commerce, and one member shall be representative of a local  
21 government planning body or its staff. Every member shall be a  
22 resident of the county upon whose advisory committee he or she sits(~~(~~  
23 ~~and not more than three members shall at the time of their appointment~~  
24 ~~be members of the same major political party))~~).

25 (4) The members of each terminal area committee shall be appointed  
26 for four-year terms. The initial terms of the members of each terminal  
27 area committee shall be staggered as follows: All terms shall commence  
28 September 1, 1988, with one member's term expiring August 31, 1990, one  
29 member's term expiring August 31, 1991, and the remaining member's term  
30 expiring August 31, 1992. Any vacancy shall be filled for the  
31 remainder of the unexpired term by the appointing authority. (~~Not~~  
32 ~~more than two members of any terminal area committee may be from the~~  
33 ~~same political party at the time of their appointment, and in a county~~  
34 ~~having more than one committee, the overall party representation shall~~  
35 ~~be as nearly equal as possible.))~~

36 (5)(a) The (~~chair[s]~~) chairs, or the chairs' designees, of the  
37 (~~several~~) terminal area committees and ferry advisory committees  
38 constitute an executive committee of (~~the~~) Washington state ferry

1 users. The executive committee shall meet at least twice each year  
2 with representatives of the marine division of the department and the  
3 commission to review ferry system issues. The department shall provide  
4 technical support to the executive committee to allow for review of the  
5 following:

6 (i) Ferry system revenues and operating costs;

7 (ii) Ferry system route or other significant service changes; and

8 (iii) Other ferry system issues.

9 (b) The executive committee shall provide recommendations on the  
10 ferry-related issues listed in (a) of this subsection to the commission  
11 and the legislature on a schedule that will enable the information to  
12 be used as part of the decision-making process for legislative budget  
13 development and commission fare setting.

14 (6) The committees to be appointed by the county legislative  
15 authorities shall serve without fee or compensation.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.60.315 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 16 s 3 are each amended  
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) The commission shall adopt fares and pricing policies by rule,  
19 under chapter 34.05 RCW, according to the following schedule:

20 (a) Each year the department shall provide the commission a report  
21 of its review of fares and pricing policies, with recommendations for  
22 the revision of fares and pricing policies for the ensuing year;

23 (b) By September 1st of each year, beginning in 2008, the  
24 commission shall adopt by rule fares and pricing policies for the  
25 ensuing year.

26 (2) The commission may adopt by rule fares that are effective for  
27 more or less than one year for the purposes of transitioning to the  
28 fare schedule in subsection (1) of this section.

29 (3) The commission may increase ferry fares included in the  
30 schedule of charges adopted under this section by a percentage that  
31 exceeds the fiscal growth factor.

32 (4) The chief executive officer of the ferry system may authorize  
33 the use of promotional, discounted, and special event fares to the  
34 general public and commercial enterprises for the purpose of maximizing  
35 capacity use and the revenues collected by the ferry system. The  
36 department shall report to the commission a summary of the promotional,

1 discounted, and special event fares offered during each fiscal year and  
2 the financial results from these activities.

3 (5) Fare revenues and other revenues deposited in the Puget Sound  
4 ferry operations account created in RCW 47.60.530 may not be used to  
5 support the Puget Sound capital construction account created in RCW  
6 47.60.505, unless the support for capital is separately identified in  
7 the fare.

8 (6) The commission may not raise fares until the fare rules contain  
9 pricing policies developed under RCW 47.60.290, or September 1, 2009,  
10 whichever is later.

11 (7) The commission shall impose a vessel replacement surcharge of  
12 twenty-five cents on every one-way and round-trip ferry fare sold,  
13 including multiride and monthly pass fares. This surcharge must be  
14 clearly indicated to ferry passengers and drivers and, if possible, on  
15 the fare media itself.

16 (8) Recommendations relating to ferry system revenues and operating  
17 costs presented to the commission by the executive committee of  
18 Washington state ferry users must be considered before raising fares.

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