

SSB 5488 - H AMD TO H AMD (H-2981.1/22) **1375**

By Representative Young

NOT ADOPTED 03/08/2022

1 On page 1, line 20 of the striking amendment, after "bridge;"
2 strike "and"

3
4 On page 1, line 25 of the striking amendment, after "subsection"
5 strike "is \$130,000,000" and insert "(f) is \$130,000,000; and
6 (g) By the last day of July 2027, the state treasurer shall
7 transfer \$57,593,000 from the general fund as an additional
8 contribution to the account"

9
10 On page 4, after line 6 of the striking amendment, insert the
11 following:

12 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. In the 2027-2029 biennium, the legislature
13 shall appropriate \$57,593,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,
14 from the Tacoma Narrows toll bridge account to the department of
15 transportation for the purpose of making full payment of deferred
16 sales taxes under RCW 47.46.060 regarding construction of the Tacoma
17 Narrows public-private initiative project under chapter 47.46 RCW.

18
19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. (1) The legislature recognizes the
20 following facts with respect to making additional contributions for
21 the payment of deferred sales taxes pursuant to section 2 of this
22 act regarding the Tacoma Narrows toll bridge project under RCW
23 47.56.165:

24 (a) Washington state sales tax may not be forgiven due to
25 federal rules and must therefore be paid;

26 (b) Though the Tacoma Narrows toll bridge project may not be
27 paid off early due to its unique financing structure, including

1 noncallable bonds, the state portion of the deferred sales taxes may
2 be paid off early without penalty;

3 (c) While the state is, in effect, both taxing itself in
4 transportation budget appropriations and paying itself in the
5 omnibus operating appropriations act, should the omnibus operating
6 appropriations act transfer money back to the Tacoma Narrows toll
7 bridge account following payment of the deferred sales tax through
8 transportation budget appropriations, the following would be achieved:

- 9 (i) Satisfaction of federal rules;
- 10 (ii) Forgiveness of the deferred sales tax; and
- 11 (iii) Imposition of a net zero fiscal impact to the state.

12 (2) The legislature finds that by planning the transaction
13 beyond the budgetary cumulative forecast required under RCW 43.88A.
14 020, the transaction is secured with a more technically accurate
15 fiscal impact of zero cost, that:

16 (a) Directs taxes generated by transportation projects toward
17 funding transportation projects; and

18 (b) Directs Tacoma Narrows toll bridge revenue toward Tacoma
19 Narrows toll bridge payments for debt service.

20 (3) The legislature also finds that paying the state portion of
21 the deferred sales taxes earlier than required under RCW 47.46.060
22 brings another level of equity to a toll payer project that received
23 no upfront state investments, unlike other state tolling projects
24 that received substantial state support of approximately 30 percent
25 of project costs, and therefore:

26 (a) Makes an additional contribution to correct a wrong; and

27 (b) Prudently pays off the deferred sales tax toll debt earlier
28 than scheduled."

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30 Renumber the remaining section consecutively and correct any
31 internal references accordingly.

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EFFECT: Makes the following changes to the striking amendment:

- Transfers \$57.6 million from the General Fund to the Tacoma Narrows bridge toll account, for the purposes of making an additional state contribution, by July 2027.
- Directs the Legislature to appropriate \$57.6 million from the Tacoma Narrows bridge toll account to WSDOT in the 2027-29 biennium to make full payment of the deferred sales tax.
- Provides recognitions, findings, and intent in regards to the payment of deferred sales tax.

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