

February 24, 1997

BILL ANALYSIS

TO: Members, Committee on Trade and Economic Development
FROM: Kenny Pittman, Research Analyst (786-7392)
**RE: HB 1989 - Requiring consideration of international
ferry closures' impact on tourism.**

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Transportation (Department) operates the state's ferry system. The department is required to consult with ferry users before implementing a substantial expansion or curtailment in the level of service, or a revision in the schedule of ferry tolls or charges.

The department's public consultation process involves: (1) public hearings in the affected communities; (2) a review of the proposed changes with the affected local ferry advisory committees; (3) conducting a survey of affected ferry users; or (4) a combination of all of them.

SUMMARY:

As part of the public participation process regarding levels of service, the Department of Transportation must consider the impact of loss tourism on the local community and the state on ferry runs between Washington and British Columbia, Canada.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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