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HOUSE BILL 1989

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Van Luven, Morris, Sehlin, Conway, DeBolt, Dickerson, Quall, Kastama, Doumit, Cooper, Gardner, Veloria, Blalock, Poulsen, Chopp, Keiser, O'Brien, Anderson and Linville

Read first time 02/17/97. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to marine tourism with British Columbia, Canada;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 47.60 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

5 (a) Tourism is an important component of the state's economy and  
6 spending by out-of-state visitors and Washington residents traveling  
7 within the state totaled over seven and one-half billion dollars in  
8 1994;

9 (b) In 1994, spending by travelers provided employment for over  
10 ninety-six thousand people and that travel-generated payroll was one  
11 billion fifty-one million dollars;

12 (c) In 1994, state tax revenue generated by travel spending totaled  
13 four hundred eleven million dollars and local governments collected one  
14 hundred four million nine hundred thousand dollars in travel-generated  
15 taxes;

16 (d) In 1994, approximately twelve and one-half million  
17 international travelers visited Washington state and Canadian visitors  
18 accounted for approximately twelve million of the total visitors to  
19 Washington state;

1 (e) In 1995, approximately twenty-two and nine-tenths percent of  
2 all Canadian visitors, both overnight and same day, to the United  
3 States came to Washington state; and

4 (f) In 1994, spending by Canadian visitors added four hundred four  
5 million eight hundred thousand dollars to the Washington state economy.

6 (2) The legislature declares that tourism is a vital component of  
7 the state's economy and that the Puget Sound ferry system is vital to  
8 the state's tourism efforts.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW  
10 to read as follows:

11 In addition to the requirements of RCW 47.60.330(1), before a  
12 substantial curtailment in the level of service provided to ferry users  
13 between the state and British Columbia, Canada, the department of  
14 transportation shall consider the impact of the loss of tourism on the  
15 state and the local community.

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