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ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6325

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Oke, B. Sheldon and T. Sheldon

Read first time 01/15/98. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to additional state ferry vessels; adding new  
2 sections 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.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 The legislature finds and declares that there is a compelling need  
7 for the construction of additional state ferry vessels and  
8 corresponding terminal improvements in order to provide more capacity  
9 and frequent service to meet the forecasted travel demands of citizens  
10 traveling on Puget Sound ferry routes. The vessel technology required  
11 must provide additional travel options for high growth ferry routes  
12 through increased passenger-only ferry service.

13 The 1989 west corridor study evaluated cross-sound travel through  
14 the year 2020 and identified the Southworth to Seattle and the Kingston  
15 to Seattle passenger-only ferry routes as promising based on criteria  
16 evaluating cost effectiveness, time savings, physical constraints to  
17 operation, nonduplication of current service, and ability to relieve  
18 congestion.

1 Furthermore, as a result of legislative direction provided in the  
2 1991-93 transportation budget to the state transportation commission to  
3 evaluate and determine the location of new passenger-only ferry routes,  
4 the commission reviewed several service alternatives, determined that  
5 the Southworth to Seattle and Kingston to Seattle routes ranked  
6 highest, and directed the Washington state ferries to proceed with the  
7 design and permitting processes for passenger-only terminals at both  
8 Southworth and Kingston.

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

11 The department is authorized to proceed with the acquisition,  
12 procurement, and construction of a maximum of four passenger-only  
13 vessels that respond to the service demands of state ferry service on  
14 the Southworth to Seattle and Kingston to Seattle ferry routes,  
15 including the terminal and docking facilities necessary to accommodate  
16 such service. The acquisition, procurement, and construction of  
17 vessels and terminals authorized herein shall be undertaken in  
18 accordance with the authority provided in RCW 47.56.030.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW  
20 to read as follows:

21 The department's authority to proceed with the acquisition,  
22 procurement, and construction of vessels and terminals authorized under  
23 section 2 of this act is contingent on a legislative appropriation  
24 approving that authority: PROVIDED, That the appropriation does not  
25 reduce the current level of funding for the maintenance and repair of  
26 vessels and terminals in service as of the effective date of this act.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If this act is not referred to by bill or  
28 chapter number in a transportation budget, or an omnibus appropriations  
29 act, that, by December 31, 1998, either becomes law under Article III,  
30 section 12 of the state Constitution or is approved by the people of  
31 this state, this act is null and void on December 31, 1998.

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