
HOUSE BILL 2641

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Fisher and Mitchell

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to creation of a joint task force on ferries; and
2 creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The joint task force on ferries is
5 created, to be composed of:

6 (a) Eight members of the legislature selected as follows:

7 (i) Four members of the senate, two from each of the major
8 caucuses, to be appointed by the president of the senate;

9 (ii) Four members of the house of representatives, two from each of
10 the major caucuses, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of
11 representatives; and

12 (iii) The members appointed from each major caucus of the senate
13 and the house of representatives must include one member from a
14 legislative district that encompasses a terminus of a Washington state
15 ferry route and one from a legislative district that does not include
16 a terminus of a Washington state ferry route;

17 (b) At least one person designated by the cochairs representing
18 each of the following:

19 (i) Ferry advisory committees;

1 (ii) Persons who do not use ferries;
2 (iii) Labor organizations representing ferry workers;
3 (iv) Washington State Ferries;
4 (v) Transit operators;
5 (vi) The office of financial management; and
6 (vii) Other groups as deemed appropriate by the cochairs of the
7 task force.

8 (2) The transportation committees shall provide staff support as
9 mutually agreed by the cochairs of the joint select committee. The
10 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate
11 shall designate the cochairs.

12 (3) The legislative transportation committee shall pay the expenses
13 of the legislative committee members.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The joint task force on ferries shall report
15 to the full legislature at the beginning of the 2001 legislative
16 session. The report must include, but not be limited to, analysis and
17 recommendations on the following:

18 (1) Ferry fare equity between ferry routes of different lengths;

19 (2) Establishment of a target for recovery of operating costs from
20 fare revenue that recognizes that the operation of the ferries is the
21 proprietary provision of a service for a fee;

22 (3) Options for further cuts in ferry service or full or partial
23 restoration of ferry service cuts;

24 (4) Feasibility of full or partial privatization of the ferry
25 system, public-private partnerships, or state and local partnerships;
26 and

27 (5) Establishing the short-term and long-term capital needs of the
28 Washington state ferry system, recognizing that the ferry system is
29 part of the state's highway system and that it is appropriate that the
30 public pay for the capital needs of the ferry system as an extension of
31 the land-based highway system.

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