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HOUSE BILL 2974

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Constantine, Poulsen, Fisher, Haigh, Lantz, Rockefeller, Cooper, Eickmeyer, Morris and Kessler

Read first time 01/25/2000. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to passenger-only ferry operation districts; adding  
2 a new section to chapter 36.54 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter  
3 47.60 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 36.54 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 Any county of the state may organize a passenger-only ferry  
8 operation district. A passenger-only ferry operation district may be  
9 formed by a majority vote of the elected county legislative authority.  
10 The members of the county legislative authority shall serve as the  
11 governing officials of the passenger-only ferry district. The  
12 boundaries of the passenger-only ferry district shall be the same as  
13 the boundaries of the county whose legislative authority formed the  
14 district. The passenger-only ferry district shall have the following  
15 powers and duties:

16 (1) The passenger-only ferry district shall operate passenger-only  
17 ferries serving the residents of the district. The district shall  
18 contract with a nonprofit corporation to operate the passenger-only  
19 ferry service authorized by this section.

1 (2) The passenger-only ferry district may purchase or lease  
2 passenger-only vessels from the department of transportation or from  
3 another source.

4 (3) The passenger-only ferry district may set passenger fares at  
5 the level necessary to generate sufficient revenue to pay for the cost  
6 of operating the vessels leased or purchased by the district. The  
7 fares assessed and collected by the nonprofit corporation operating the  
8 passenger-only ferry service on behalf of the passenger-only ferry  
9 district are a proprietary charge by the corporation and are not a  
10 monetary charge by government.

11 (4) When deemed necessary by the legislative authority of the  
12 county containing the passenger-only ferry district, the authority may  
13 by resolution call a special election. The resolution calling such  
14 election shall fix the form of the ballot proposition to be presented  
15 to the electorate of the passenger-only ferry district.

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

18 The department shall lease passenger-only ferries to a passenger-  
19 only ferry district for a nominal amount. The lease shall grant the  
20 passenger-only ferry operation district reasonable access to the  
21 department's docks and terminal facilities as necessary to facilitate  
22 the provision of regularly scheduled passenger-only ferry service to  
23 the residents of the district. As a condition of the lease, the  
24 passenger-only ferry district must agree to provide regularly scheduled  
25 passenger-only ferry service available to residents of the passenger-  
26 only ferry district. The department shall construct the lease so that  
27 obligations between the state and federal government relating to  
28 passenger-only ferries are not violated.

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