
SENATE BILL 6445

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2012 Regular Session

By Senator Pridemore; by request of Department of Transportation

Read first time 01/23/12. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to financing the Interstate 5 Columbia river
2 crossing project; adding a new section to chapter 47.56 RCW; creating
3 a new section; and providing a contingent effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the replacement
6 and improvement of the Interstate 5 Columbia river crossing is critical
7 for the west coast's transportation system and for the safety of
8 Washington and Oregon drivers. The interstate bridge includes two
9 side-by-side structures built in 1917 and 1958. In 2005, approximately
10 one hundred thirty-four thousand vehicles traveled across the
11 interstate bridge each day, and about forty billion dollars in freight
12 crosses the river each year. Collisions on and near the bridge occur
13 at a rate almost twice as high as other similar urban highways, and the
14 aging bridges are vulnerable to earthquakes. Replacing these
15 structures and making multimodal improvements to facilitate travel in
16 the bistate corridor is essential for the economy of the region.
17 Therefore, the state must develop a comprehensive approach to fund an
18 Interstate 5 Columbia river crossing project.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.56 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) For the purposes of this section, "Columbia river crossing
4 project" means the bistate, multimodal corridor improvement program
5 between the state route number 500 interchange in Vancouver, Washington
6 and the Victory Boulevard interchange in Portland, Oregon.

7 (2) The Columbia river crossing project is designated an eligible
8 toll facility. For the purposes of this section, "eligible toll
9 facility" means the Interstate 5 transportation corridor between the
10 state route number 500 interchange in Vancouver, Washington and the
11 Victory Boulevard interchange in Portland, Oregon. Tolls are
12 authorized to be charged for travel on the existing and replacement
13 Interstate 5 Columbia river bridges.

14 (3) For the Columbia river crossing project, the tolling authority
15 may enter into agreements with the Oregon state transportation
16 commission regarding the mutual or joint setting, adjustment, and
17 review of toll rates as the tolling authority may find necessary or
18 convenient to carry out the purposes of this section.

19 (4) Toll revenue generated on the Columbia river crossing project
20 must only be expended as allowed under RCW 47.56.820.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect upon, and tolls may
22 not be collected on the Columbia river crossing project until,
23 certification of the secretary of transportation to the governor that
24 the department of transportation has received sufficient funding
25 authority to initiate construction of the Columbia river crossing
26 project and the transportation commission has executed an agreement or
27 agreements described in section 2(3) of this act. If the secretary of
28 transportation does not provide such certification to the governor by
29 December 31, 2015, this act is null and void.

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