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SENATE BILL 5307

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Senators O'Ban, Ranker, and Dammeier

Read first time 01/19/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to deficit reimbursement agreements with counties  
2            owning and operating ferry systems; and amending RCW 47.56.725.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.56.725 and 1999 c 269 s 12 are each amended to  
5            read as follows:

6            (1) The department is hereby authorized to enter into a  
7            continuing agreement with Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties  
8            pursuant to which the department shall, from time to time, direct the  
9            distribution to each of the counties the amounts authorized in  
10           subsection (2) of this section in accordance with RCW 46.68.090.

11           (2) The department is authorized to include in each agreement a  
12           provision for the distribution of funds to each county to reimburse  
13           the county for fifty percent of the deficit incurred during each  
14           previous fiscal year in the operation and maintenance of the ferry  
15           system owned and operated by the county. The total amount to be  
16           reimbursed to Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties collectively shall  
17           not exceed one million eight hundred thousand dollars in (~~any~~) the  
18           2015-2017 biennium. For subsequent biennia, the amount authorized in  
19           this section must increase by the fiscal growth factor as defined in  
20           RCW 43.135.025. Each county agreement shall contain a requirement

1 that the county shall maintain tolls on its ferries at least equal to  
2 tolls in place on January 1, (~~(1990)~~) 2015.

3 (3) The annual fiscal year operating and maintenance deficit, if  
4 any, shall be determined by Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties  
5 subject to review and approval of the department. The annual fiscal  
6 year operating and maintenance deficit is defined as the total of  
7 operations and maintenance expenditures less the sum of ferry toll  
8 revenues and that portion of fuel tax revenue distributions which are  
9 attributable to the county ferry as determined by the department.  
10 Distribution of the amounts authorized by subsection (2) of this  
11 section by the state treasurer shall be directed by the department  
12 upon the receipt of properly executed vouchers from each county.

13 (4) The county road administration board may evaluate requests by  
14 Pierce, Skagit, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom counties for county ferry  
15 capital improvement funds. The board shall evaluate the requests and,  
16 if approved by a majority of the board, submit the requests to the  
17 legislature for funding out of the amounts available under RCW  
18 46.68.090(~~(1)(j)~~) (2)(h). Any county making a request under this  
19 subsection shall first seek funding through the public works trust  
20 fund, or any other available revenue source, where appropriate.

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