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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5403**

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**State of Washington**

**65th Legislature**

**2017 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators O'Ban and Conway)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to ferry district authority; and amending RCW  
2 36.54.120, 36.54.130, and 36.54.135.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.54.120 and 2003 c 83 s 302 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 A ferry district may construct, purchase, operate, and maintain  
7 (~~passenger-only~~) ferries or wharves at any unfordable stream, lake,  
8 estuary, or bay within or bordering the ferry district, or between  
9 portions of the ferry district, or between the ferry district and  
10 other ferry districts, together with all the necessary boats,  
11 grounds, roads, approaches, and landings appertaining thereto under  
12 the direction and control of the governing body of the ferry  
13 district, free or for toll as the governing body determines by  
14 resolution.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.54.130 and 2009 c 551 s 4 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) To carry out the purposes for which ferry districts are  
18 created, the governing body of a ferry district may levy each year an  
19 ad valorem tax on all taxable property located in the district not to  
20 exceed seventy-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value,

1 except a ferry district in a county with a population of one million  
2 five hundred thousand or more may not levy at a rate that exceeds  
3 seven and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. The  
4 levy must be sufficient for the provision of ferry services as shown  
5 to be required by the budget prepared by the governing body of the  
6 ferry district.

7 (2) A tax imposed under this section may be used only for:

8 (a) Providing ferry services, including the purchase, lease, or  
9 rental of ferry vessels and dock facilities;

10 (b) The operation, maintenance, and improvement of ferry vessels  
11 and dock facilities;

12 (c) Providing shuttle services between the ferry terminal and  
13 passenger parking facilities, and other landside improvements  
14 directly related to the provision of ((passenger-only)) ferry  
15 service; and

16 (d) Related personnel costs.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.54.135 and 2007 c 223 s 7 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) A county ferry district may incur general indebtedness, and  
20 issue general obligation bonds, to finance the construction,  
21 purchase, and preservation of ((passenger-only)) ferries and  
22 associated terminals and retire the indebtedness in whole or in part  
23 from the revenues received from the tax levy authorized in RCW  
24 36.54.130.

25 (2) The ordinance adopted by the county legislative authority  
26 creating the county ferry district and authorizing the use of  
27 revenues received from the tax levy authorized in RCW 36.54.130 must  
28 indicate an intent to incur this indebtedness and the maximum amount  
29 of this indebtedness that is contemplated.

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