
HOUSE BILL 2174

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Representatives G. Chandler, Cooper, Conway and Edwards

Read first time 02/21/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Northwest Maritime Safety Act of 2001;
2 adding new sections to chapter 88.16 RCW; creating a new section;
3 making appropriations; providing an effective date; and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** To facilitate national and international
7 trade in Washington, the legislature is committed to a coordinated
8 maritime safety program that preserves Washington's marine environment
9 as an essential and integral part of a healthy economy and meets the
10 transportation safety needs of the maritime industry. The legislature
11 finds that improving maritime management protocols in Washington's
12 waters through providing timely decisions on vessel assistance and
13 rescue, enhancing the tracking of vessels, and providing advanced
14 communication technology are important steps to providing protected
15 waters and a sound economy.

16 The need for these maritime measures is particularly urgent in
17 protecting Washington waters. The failure to act now will only
18 increase the potential negative effects on the environment and the
19 economy. Therefore, the Northwest Maritime Safety Act of 2001 is

1 enacted as a partnership with the maritime industry and the United
2 States Coast Guard.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The board of pilotage commissioners shall
4 develop a process for the expeditious response to requests from the
5 captain of the ports of district 13 of Puget Sound for a tug boat or
6 tug boats from operators who participate in the international tug of
7 opportunity system in Puget Sound. The process will enable tug boats
8 to be called to prevent or mitigate accidents occurring due to adverse
9 weather or when a vessel or vessels otherwise poses a substantial risk
10 to the Puget Sound environment as determined by the captain of the
11 port.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The board of pilotage commissioners
13 shall provide automated information system transponders to pilots
14 transiting navigable Washington waters in order to assist in tracking
15 the movement of the vessel while in Puget Sound. If the vessel does
16 not have a transponder on board when a pilot boards a vessel, the pilot
17 shall temporarily install a transponder on the vessel. When the vessel
18 leaves Puget Sound, a pilot shall remove the temporary transponder. A
19 transponder that is not operating properly will not prevent the pilot
20 from beginning or continuing a voyage.

21 (2) In order to provide enhanced maritime navigation safety, the
22 board of pilotage commissioners shall provide a credit of two thousand
23 five hundred dollars to vessel operators who are frequent users of
24 navigable Washington waters of Puget Sound for the purposes of
25 permanently installing automated information system transponders on
26 those vessels. This equipment will remain the property or partial
27 property of the board. If a vessel leaves the Pacific Ocean on a
28 permanent basis, the vessel owner must return the automated information
29 system transponder or refund a portion of the value due and as
30 determined by the board. Vessel owners or their agents may apply for
31 the credit for only one vessel at a time.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The board of pilotage commissioners may
33 contract with one or more nonprofit maritime organizations for the
34 administration and management of sections 1 through 6 of this act under
35 rules adopted by the board. The board may adopt rules with appropriate
36 procedures, monitoring, and evaluation measures to implement sections

1 1 through 6 of this act. The board shall not spend more than seven
2 percent of funds appropriated for purposes of sections 1 through 6 of
3 this act for administration, training, and other management costs.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The board of pilotage commissioners shall
5 oversee the establishment of the physical oceanographic real-time
6 system to provide coverage of the navigable waters of Washington state.
7 The program shall track vessel movements in order to provide ship
8 masters and pilots with accurate real-time information required to
9 avoid groundings and collisions. The board shall take recommendations
10 from maritime and public interests as to the best location for physical
11 oceanographic real-time system equipment in Puget Sound waters.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The maritime safety subaccount is created in
13 the pilotage account. All receipts from private contributions, foreign
14 funds, federal funds, and legislative appropriations made to fund the
15 purposes of sections 1 through 5 of this act must be deposited into the
16 account. Moneys in the subaccount may be spent only after
17 appropriation.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The sum of one million six hundred
19 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
20 appropriated for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2003, from the
21 multimodal transportation account to the maritime safety subaccount.
22 One million six hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be
23 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal biennium ending June 30,
24 2003, from the maritime safety subaccount to the board of pilotage
25 commissioners solely for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

26 (2) The sum of two million five hundred thousand dollars, or as
27 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
28 ending June 30, 2003, from the multimodal transportation account to the
29 maritime safety subaccount. Two million five hundred thousand dollars,
30 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the
31 biennium ending June 30, 2003, from the maritime safety subaccount to
32 the board of pilotage commissioners solely for the purposes set forth
33 in section 3 of this act and for the following purposes:

34 (a) As a pilot program, the board of pilotage commissioners shall
35 provide at least ten laptop computers to pilots for work in conjunction
36 with the automated information system transponders. The purpose of the

1 computer is to give to the pilot and the bridge crew electronic
2 navigational aides, powered grounding and collision avoidance
3 information, and the ability to better communicate with and see other
4 vessels.

5 (b) The board of pilotage commissioners shall require and pay for
6 training of pilots on the use of transponder technology and the use of
7 the laptop computers in conjunction with the automated information
8 system transponders. Money appropriated under this section must be
9 used for training pilots on the shipboard transponder technology.

10 (c) The board of pilotage commissioners shall report to the
11 transportation committees of the legislature by January 14, 2002, as to
12 the effectiveness of the laptop computers in a safety program. If the
13 house and senate transportation committees affirm that the pilot
14 project was of value in improving maritime safety sufficient to justify
15 further investment, the board shall purchase laptop computers for the
16 remaining pilots transiting navigable Washington waters of Puget Sound,
17 Grays Harbor, and the Columbia River and provide corresponding
18 training, subject to appropriation. The board shall submit a final
19 report for biennial review of this entire act by January 13, 2003.

20 (3) The sum of two million five hundred thousand dollars, or as
21 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
22 ending June 30, 2003, from the multimodal transportation account to the
23 maritime safety subaccount. Two million five hundred thousand dollars,
24 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the
25 biennium ending June 30, 2003, to the board of pilotage commissioners
26 for the purposes of purchasing, maintaining, and administering the
27 navigational systems authorized in section 5 of this act.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The governor of Washington state shall
29 solicit the states of Oregon and Alaska to determine the interest of
30 these states in participating in the Northwest Maritime Safety Act of
31 2001 on a regional basis.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act are each
33 added to chapter 88.16 RCW.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This act is necessary for the immediate
35 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
2 July 1, 2001.

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