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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6380**

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**State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2014 Regular Session**

**By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senator O'Ban)**

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/14.

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 read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) The department is hereby authorized to enter into a continuing  
7 agreement with Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties pursuant to which  
8 the department shall, from time to time, direct the distribution to  
9 each of the counties the amounts authorized in subsection (2) of this  
10 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 the  
13 county for fifty percent of the deficit incurred during each previous  
14 fiscal year in the operation and maintenance of the ferry system owned  
15 and operated by the county. The total amount to be reimbursed to  
16 Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties collectively shall not exceed one  
17 million eight hundred thousand dollars in any biennium. Each county  
18 agreement shall contain a requirement that the county shall maintain

1 tolls on its ferries at least equal to tolls in place on January 1,  
2 (~~1990~~) 2013.

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 upon  
12 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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