

SENATE RESOLUTION

8691

By Senators Van De Wege, Liiias, Rolfes, Chase, Pedersen, Nelson, McCoy, Ranker, Bailey, Angel, Sheldon, King, and Hobbs

1       WHEREAS, The Washington Legislature in 1868 established pilot and  
2 pilotage regulations for the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound  
3 and related waters; and

4       WHEREAS, The legislature established that it shall be the duty of  
5 the governor to appoint two experienced and resident ship masters and  
6 one resident merchant to constitute a board of pilot commissioners  
7 for the different ports of Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca,  
8 and related waters; and

9       WHEREAS, The legislature established that the commissioners shall  
10 meet in Port Townsend at least once every three months and hold their  
11 first regular meeting on the first Monday of May, 1868; and

12       WHEREAS, The Pilotage Act was signed into law on January 30,  
13 1868, by the seventh governor of Washington Territory, the honorable  
14 Marshall F. Moore, a union army veteran of the civil war who served  
15 as governor from 1867 to 1869; and

16       WHEREAS, The commission and pilots have been serving Washington  
17 State and waterborne commerce in the Puget Sound region for one  
18 hundred fifty years; and

19       WHEREAS, No persons, except those licensed by the commissioners,  
20 may pilot vessels in or out of the bays or harbors of Puget Sound,  
21 the Strait of Juan de Fuca, or their inlets or harbors, for hire; and

22       WHEREAS, It is the duty of every pilot in charge of a vessel  
23 arriving in any of the ports of Puget Sound or its branches to have

1 the vessel safely moored or anchored in such position as the  
2 master may direct, and that pilots keep a pilot station and  
3 boats in good condition for cruising the Strait of Juan de Fuca  
4 and for safely boarding vessels upon arrival and disembark; and

5 WHEREAS, It is the mission of the state and Puget Sound  
6 pilots to ensure against the loss of lives, loss of or damage to  
7 property and vessel, and to protect the marine environment by  
8 maintaining efficient and competent pilotage service on our  
9 state's inland waters within the Puget Sound pilotage district;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The Pilotage Act, regulated and administered by the  
12 state's board of pilotage commissioners and serviced by state  
13 licensed pilots, has successfully handled nearly two hundred  
14 fifty thousand vessel assignments, spanning more than three  
15 decades, without a major incident in the Puget Sound; and

16 WHEREAS, This unparalleled safety record has earned Puget  
17 Sound recognition from the United States Coast Guard Captain of  
18 the Port as the safest major port in the nation; and

19 WHEREAS, Puget Sound pilots were available to board ships on  
20 arrival at the Port Angeles pilot station ninety-nine percent of  
21 the time providing nearly perfect service; and

22 WHEREAS, The state's compulsory pilotage program has  
23 successfully mitigated the risk of ships operating in Puget  
24 Sound waters while preserving Washington's position as an able  
25 competitor for waterborne commerce from other ports and nations  
26 of the world;

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
28 Senate honor this historic date of January 30, 2018, as the  
29 150th Anniversary of Washington's Pilotage Act of 1868.

30 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,  
31 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
32 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8691,  
33 adopted by the Senate  
34 January 30, 2018

35 BRAD HENDRICKSON

1 Secretary of the Senate