
SENATE BILL 6212

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators T. Sheldon, Haugen and Oke

Read first time 01/10/2000. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to private passenger-only ferries; and adding a new
2 section to chapter 81.84 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 81.84 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) If the department of transportation is no longer operating a
7 passenger-only ferry crossing upon Puget Sound or any of its tributary
8 or connecting waters, a commercial ferry operator certificated or
9 applying for certification under this chapter may apply to the
10 commission for a permit to operate a passenger-only ferry service at
11 the crossing where passenger-only service was discontinued by the
12 department.

13 (2) The commission may, upon written petition of a commercial ferry
14 operator certificated or applying for certification under this chapter,
15 and upon notice and hearing, grant a franchise permit to operate a
16 passenger-only ferry service at a ferry crossing that was previously

1 operated by the department of transportation. In granting the
2 franchise permit the commission shall consider, at a minimum, the
3 impact to the continued operation of the auto ferry service by the
4 department and the impact on transportation congestion mitigation. The
5 commission shall act upon a request for a franchise permit within
6 ninety days after the conclusion of the hearing. A franchise permit is
7 effective for a period of three years.

8 (3) The commission may adopt rules for operation of passenger-only
9 ferry service, to include rules concerning safety, quality of service,
10 levels of service, and fares. Compliance with all rules is a
11 requirement for continuation of a franchise permit.

12 (4) The commission may grant only one franchise permit for
13 passenger-only ferry operation at a particular ferry crossing.

14 (5) A franchise permit holder may lease passenger-only ferries and
15 facilities from the department of transportation as long as the leasing
16 of the ferries or facilities does not conflict with the operation of
17 the Washington state ferry system.

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