CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6363**

Chapter 34, Laws of 2016

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

STATE HIGHWAY PROJECTS--RIVERS AND WATERWAYS--PUBLIC ACCESS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/9/2016

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| Passed by the Senate February 17, 2016Yeas 49 Nays 0BRAD OWEN**President of the Senate**Passed by the House March 3, 2016Yeas 58 Nays 39FRANK CHOPP**Speaker of the House of Representatives** | CERTIFICATEI, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6363** as passed by Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.HUNTER G. GOODMAN**Chief Clerk** |
| Approved March 25, 2016 2:41 PM | March 25, 2016 |
| JAY INSLEE**Governor of the State of Washington** | **Secretary of State** **State of Washington** |

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6363**

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Passed Legislature - 2016 Regular Session

**State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Takko, Ericksen, Hobbs, and Parlette)

AN ACT Relating to the design and construction of certain transportation facilities adjacent to or across a river or waterway; adding a new section to chapter 47.01 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The legislature recognizes that the department of transportation considers public access, including recreational trails and paths, when planning and designing new highway facilities consistent with chapters 47.30 and 90.58 RCW and RCW 79A.35.120. The legislature directs the department of transportation to explore the feasibility of providing access for water-related recreation.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW to read as follows:

(1) During the design process for state highway projects that include the construction of a new bridge or reconstruction of an existing bridge across a navigable river or waterway, excluding limited access highways and ferry terminals, the department must consider and report on the feasibility of providing a means of public access to the navigable river or waterway for public recreational purposes. The report must document whether the proposed project is in an area identified by state or local plans to be a priority for recreational access to waterways. If the proposed project is in an area identified by state or local plans to be a priority for recreational access to waterways, the department must coordinate with other relevant state agencies or local agencies to ensure consistency with the identified recreational plan.

(2) To the greatest extent practicable, when constructing a state highway project, including a major improvement project, the department must not adversely impact preexisting, lawful public access to a waterway.

(3) A consideration of feasibility must include a description of the suitability for public use, implications associated with potential access, and the availability of alternate public access within a reasonable distance, if present. A consideration of feasibility must not alter the purpose and need for the proposed transportation project or create any legal obligation to modify existing recreational access from state highway facilities. If public access to waterways is deemed feasible, any subsequent development must be conclusively deemed for recreational purposes notwithstanding such facilities' relationship to transportation facilities. Findings that improvements are not feasible do not require the alteration of any existing or historic access.

(4) This section must not be interpreted to: Delay decision making or approvals on proposed state transportation improvement projects, or limit the department's entitlement to recreational immunity consistent with chapter 4.24 RCW.

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Passed by the Senate February 17, 2016.

Passed by the House March 3, 2016.

Approved by the Governor March 25, 2016.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 25, 2016.