

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5409

As of February 1, 2011

Title: An act relating to removing commercial ferries operating in Puget Sound from the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission.

Brief Description: Removing commercial ferries operating in Puget Sound from the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission.

Sponsors: Senators King and Haugen.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/01/11.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7403)

Background: Under current law, the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) generally regulates commercial ferries operating upon the waters within the state, including the rivers and lakes and Puget Sound. Commercial ferries must first obtain from the UTC a certificate of public convenience and necessity to lawfully operate within the state. The certificate includes various conditions, including rate setting, established by the UTC.

Current law generally prohibits the operation of ferry service on Puget Sound within ten miles of an existing ferry route operated by the state Department of Transportation (DOT).

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute): A commercial ferry operating on Puget Sound is no longer subject to UTC regulation, unless it is providing launch service. Launch service is defined as the transportation of passengers and/or freight to or from a vessel under way, at anchor, or at a dock.

The prohibition on providing ferry service within ten miles of a DOT-operated ferry route on Puget Sound is repealed.

Appropriation: None.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.