
Transportation Committee

HB 1318

Brief Description: Concerning deficit reimbursement agreements with counties owning and operating ferry systems.

Sponsors: Representatives Fey, Muri, Kirby, Kilduff and Zeiger.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Increases the total collective amount of reimbursement to Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties for any deficit incurred in the operation and maintenance of a ferry system operated by one of the counties to \$1.8 million in the 2015-17 biennium.
- Indexes the deficit reimbursement to the fiscal growth factor.

Hearing Date: 1/26/15

Staff: David Munnecke (786-7315).

Background:

Counties are authorized to operate ferry systems under the direct control of the county legislative authority. The Washington State Department of Transportation is allowed to enter into agreements to reimburse Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties for up to 50 percent of any deficit incurred during the previous fiscal year in the operation and maintenance of a ferry system that is owned and operated by one of these three counties, with the reimbursement funds coming from the portion of the state motor vehicle fuel taxes allocated to the counties. The total collective amount of reimbursement to Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties for any such deficit is capped at \$1 million per biennium.

Summary of Bill:

The total collective amount of reimbursement to Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties for any deficit incurred in the operation and maintenance of a ferry system operated by one of the

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counties is increased to \$1.8 million in the 2015-17 biennium. The amount of deficit reimbursement is indexed to the fiscal growth factor for future biennia.

The tolls charged by the counties must be at least equal to the tolls in place on January 1, 2015.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Fiscal note on Companion Bill SB 5307 Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.