

Joint com-  
mittee on  
education.  
Emergency.

SEC. 17. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House April 6, 1965.

Passed the Senate April 4, 1965.

Approved by the Governor April 14, 1965.

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CHAPTER 131.

[ Senate Bill No. 474. ]

BRIDGING PUGET SOUND—STUDIES.

AN ACT relating to highways; authorizing the selection of a route for construction of a bridge or bridges across Puget Sound; authorizing traffic and financial studies and surveys to determine the feasibility of constructing such bridges; making an appropriation and declaring an emergency.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:*

Bridging Puget  
Sound. Study  
and selection  
of route—  
Joint action by  
state agencies  
—Considera-  
tions—Type of  
project.

SECTION 1. The Washington state highway commission and the Washington toll bridge authority are hereby authorized, acting jointly with the joint committee on highways to investigate, study and select an appropriate route for the construction of a bridge or bridges across Puget Sound to link the Kitsap Peninsula to the mainland. In selecting a route, the highway commission, the toll bridge authority, and the joint committee shall consider existing highways and other transportation facilities already constructed or in operation and the necessity and advisability of constructing necessary approaches connecting to such facilities. The co-operative study authorized by this section shall also consider whether such project shall be con-

structed in whole or in part as an improvement on the state highway system, as a toll project or as an extension to the federal interstate system provided such an extension is authorized by the federal government, in either case making use of federal agency funds as appropriate and available and funds contributed or advanced by any political subdivisions which it is determined will be economically benefited by construction of the project.

SEC. 2. If all three agencies concur in selection of a route as prescribed in section 1 of this act, the highway commission, the toll bridge authority, acting jointly with the joint committee on highways is authorized to retain an independent engineering firm to prepare traffic and financial studies and surveys to determine the feasibility of undertaking to construct a toll bridge or bridges along the route selected which will be acceptable to prospective bond purchasers or investment firms.

Preparation of feasibility studies if route selected.

SEC. 3. The study shall include but shall not be confined to the following:

Study contents —Completion date—Results submitted to legislature.

(1) The financial feasibility of bridging Puget Sound or any segment thereof based on predicted traffic and economic conditions of the area to be served and utilizing engineering estimates of costs furnished by the department of highways.

(2) The relative economic benefit to counties, cities or other political subdivisions to be principally served by construction of a bridge.

(3) The effect on the state highway system and state ferry system by construction of a cross sound bridge or any segment thereof.

(4) The cost of the entire project; the portion of such total cost which can be financed by the issuance of toll revenue bonds; the portion of such total costs to be contributed by benefited areas; and the portion of such total cost and the amount of

Bridging Puget  
Sound. Study  
contents—  
Results  
submitted to  
legislature.

guarantee funds which should be contributed from that portion of the motor vehicle fund available to the department of highways for state highway purposes.

The foregoing study shall be completed by January 1, 1967, and the results thereof shall be submitted to the legislature at the beginning of the 1967 session.

Appropriation.

SEC. 4. There is appropriated from the motor vehicle fund jointly to the Washington state highway commission and the Washington toll bridge authority, the sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars or so much as shall be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

Appropriation  
as loan.

SEC. 5. All funds herein appropriated from the motor vehicle fund to the Washington state highway commission and the Washington toll bridge authority shall be considered as a loan and shall be repaid by the commission and the authority to the motor vehicle fund upon the sale of bonds for this project.

Emergency.

SEC. 6. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the Senate March 18, 1965.

Passed the House April 9, 1965.

Approved by the Governor April 14, 1965.