

were performed in good faith and without negligence.

Sec. 6. Section 45, chapter 142, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. and RCW (---) are each amended to read as follows:

~~((Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit))~~ A public or private agency ~~((from releasing))~~ shall release to a patient's attorney, his guardian, or conservator, if any, or a member of the patient's family the information that the person is presently a patient in the facility or that the person is seriously physically ill, if the professional person in charge of the facility determines that the release of such information is in the best interest of the person. Upon the death of a patient, his guardian or conservator, if any, and a member of his family shall be notified.

Sec. 7. Section 46, chapter 142, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. and RCW (---) are each amended to read as follows:

When a ~~((voluntary))~~ patient would otherwise be subject to the provisions of section 44 ~~((of this 1973 amendatory act))~~, chapter 142, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. and RCW (---) and disclosure is necessary for the protection of the patient or others due to his unauthorized disappearance from the facility, and his whereabouts is unknown, notice of such disappearance, along with relevant information, may be made to relatives and governmental law enforcement agencies designated by the physician in charge of the patient or the professional person in charge of the facility, or his professional designee.

Passed the Senate September 15, 1973.

Passed the House September 14, 1973.

Approved by the Governor September 22, 1973.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State September 24, 1973.

CHAPTER 25

[Senate Bill No. 2952]

DOGFISH--FISH FOOD USE STUDY

AN ACT Relating to food fish and shellfish; creating new sections; making an appropriation.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. The legislature has long recognized the importance of the fishing industry to the people of this state. Changing economic conditions have adversely affected the availability of fish meal used by our department of fisheries in rearing salmon and our department of game in rearing trout. In order to protect and preserve our fisheries resource it is necessary to find an alternative to fish meal which uses herring as a base. The legislature hereby authorizes and directs the department of fisheries

to conduct studies and tests on the feasibility of producing fish meal with a base of *Squalus acanthias*, commonly known as dogfish. The results of the studies and tests and any recommendations of the department shall be presented to the forty-fourth regular session of the legislature for its consideration.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. To carry out the provisions of this act there is appropriated to the department of fisheries from the general fund for the biennium ending June 30, 1975, the sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as shall be necessary.

Passed the Senate September 12, 1973.

Passed the House September 13, 1973.

Approved by the Governor September 22, 1973.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State September 24, 1973.

CHAPTER 26

[Senate Bill No. 2954]

STATE SUPPORT OF COUNTY FERRIES--STUDY--
PUGET ISLAND FERRY

AN ACT Relating to the Puget Island ferry; amending section 1, chapter 254, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 47.56.720; providing a study; prescribing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

Section 1. Section 1, chapter 254, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 47.56.720 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The legislature finds that the ferry operated by Wahkiakum county between Puget Island and Westport on the Columbia river provides service which is primarily local in nature with secondary benefits to the state highway system in providing a bypass for state route 4 and providing the only crossing of the Columbia river between the Astoria-Megler bridge and the Longview bridge.

(2) The Washington state highway commission is hereby authorized to enter into a continuing agreement with Wahkiakum county pursuant to which the state highway commission shall pay to Wahkiakum county from moneys appropriated for such purpose the sum of one thousand dollars per month to be used in the operation and maintenance of the Puget Island ferry, commencing July 1, 1971; PROVIDED, That from October 1, 1973 through June 30, 1975 the state highway commission shall pay Wahkiakum county one thousand one hundred forty-two dollars and eighty-six cents per month.

Additionally, the Washington state highway commission is authorized to include in the continuing agreement a provision to