

attest, deeds conveying said lands to the Town of Soap Lake and School District No. 156 of Grant County.

Passed the House March 2, 1949.

Passed the Senate March 7, 1949.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 1949.

CHAPTER 148.

[H. B. 347.]

MARINE EMPLOYEE COMMISSION.

AN ACT providing for the creation of a Marine Employee Commission within the Washington Toll Bridge Authority; prescribing said Commission's authority and powers; making provisions for the administration of labor relations and adjudicating labor disputes pertaining to the operation and maintenance of a Puget Sounty ferry and bridge system, and declaring an emergency.

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

Public policy.

SECTION 1. The State of Washington, as a public policy, declares that sound labor relations are essential to the development of a ferry and bridge system which will best serve the interests of the people of the State.

Definitions.

SEC. 2. Words and phrases used in this act shall have the meaning in this act ascribed to them except where, from the context thereof, they shall clearly have a contrary meaning:

"Washington Toll Bridge Authority."

(a) "Washington Toll Bridge Authority" and "authority," "toll bridge authority" shall be used herein interchangeably and shall mean the Washington Toll Bridge Authority as now, or as hereafter constituted by law, or such board, commission, authority, or officers as shall succeed to its duties;

"Marine Employee Commission."

(b) "Marine Employee Commission" and "Commission" shall be used herein interchangeably and

shall mean the Marine Employee Commission as prescribed herein;

(c) "Ferry" shall mean any ferry, ferry system, wharves, terminals constructed or acquired under the authority of the Washington Toll Bridge Authority;

"Ferry."

(d) "Employee" shall mean any person employed aboard ferries, wharves, or terminals acquired or constructed under the authority of the Washington Toll Bridge Authority.

"Employee."

SEC. 3. In the event the State of Washington through the Washington Toll Bridge Authority exercises the powers granted in Senate Bill 154, the Washington Toll Bridge Authority shall immediately appoint a Marine Employee Commission to consist of three (3) members, one member to be appointed from labor, one member from industry and one member from the public, which last named member shall be chairman of the Commission. One member shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, one member for a term of three (3) years, and the chairman for a term of four (4) years. Thereafter each member shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation with the exception of the member from the public, whose salary shall be determined by the Washington Toll Bridge Authority. Members of the Commission shall be reimbursed by the authority for all necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The Washington Toll Bridge Authority is empowered to negotiate and to enter into labor agreements with its employees or their representatives. The Commission shall have the authority to administer labor relations and to adjudicate all labor disputes in the best interests of the efficient operation of any ferry or ferry system. In adjudicating disputes, the Marine Employee Commission shall take into con-

Marine Employee Commission.

Members.

Terms of office.

Compensation of members.

Expenses of members.

Labor agreements.

Commission may administer labor relations and adjudicate labor disputes.

Employee may choose his representative before Commission.

Duties of Commission.

Notice of labor dispute.

Decision of Commission.

Hearings.

Orders of Commission final and binding.

Rules of procedure.

Power of subpoena.

sideration that though an individual employee shall be free to decline to associate with his fellow employees, it is necessary that he have full freedom of association, self-organization and designation of representatives of his own choosing who shall represent him in all respects before the Marine Employee Commission to negotiate the terms and conditions of his employment and the settlement of his labor disputes. The duties of the Commission shall be to make surveys of wages, hours and working conditions as it deems necessary and shall consider the prevailing practices for similarly skilled trades in the area in which the employee is employed, and shall adjust complaints, grievances and disputes concerning labor arising out of the operation of said ferry or ferry system. Any employee, employee's representative, or Washington Toll Bridge Authority claiming labor disputes shall in writing notify the Marine Employee Commission who shall make careful inquiry into the cause thereof and issue an order in writing advising the employee, or his representative, and the authority as to the decision of the Commission. The parties shall be entitled to offer evidence relating to disputes at all hearings conducted by the Commission. All evidence, statements and testimony in any Commission hearing under this act shall be transcribed and preserved by the Commission and be available as a public record. The orders and awards of the Marine Employee Commission shall be final and binding upon any employee or employees or their representatives affected thereby and upon the Washington Toll Bridge Authority. The Commission shall by regulation prescribe its rules of procedure. The Commission shall have the authority to subpoena any employee or employees, or their representatives, and any member or representative of the Washington Toll Bridge Authority, and any witnesses. The Commission shall have power to require attendance

of witnesses and the production of all pertinent records at any hearings held by the Commission. The subpoenas of the Commission shall be enforceable by order of any Superior Court in the State of Washington for the county within which such proceedings may be pending.

Subpoenas enforceable by courts.

SEC. 4. The Marine Employee Commission is hereby directed to place all employees aboard ferries acquired by the Toll Bridge Authority under the benefits secured to workmen as set forth in chapter 35, Laws of 1945, as amended, commonly cited as the "Unemployment Compensation Act."

State employees aboard ferries under "Unemployment Compensation Act."

SEC. 5. All employees engaged aboard ferries acquired by the Toll Bridge Authority shall remain subject to all state and Federal enactments for the protection, benefit and welfare of workmen, and the Washington Toll Bridge Authority shall make such deductions from salaries of employees and contributions from revenues of the Toll Bridge Authority as shall be necessary to qualify said employees for benefits under both Federal and state laws.

Employees aboard ferries subject to all Federal and state laws for benefits.

SEC. 6. Employees shall be subject to and entitled to the benefits of the provision of the industrial insurance laws of the State of Washington, and the employees are hereby declared to be in extra-hazardous employment within the meaning of that act.

Employees subject to industrial insurance laws.

SEC. 7. All employees employed at the time of the acquisition of any ferry or ferry system by the Toll Bridge Authority shall have seniority rights to the position they occupy aboard said ferries or ferry system. In the event of curtailment of ferry operations for any reason, employees shall be relieved of service on the basis of their duration of employment in any ferry or ferry system acquired by the Toll Bridge Authority.

Seniority rights of employees.

SEC. 8. Should any party assume the operation and maintenance of any ferry or ferry system by

Parties renting, leasing or chartering ferries bound by provisions of act.

rent, lease or charter from the Washington Toll Bridge Authority, such party shall assume and be bound by all the provisions herein and any agreement or contract for such operation of any ferry or ferry system entered into by the Washington Toll Bridge Authority shall provide that the wages to be paid, hours of employment, working conditions and seniority rights of employees will be established by the Marine Employees Commission in accordance with the terms and provisions of this act and it shall further provide that all labor disputes shall be adjudicated by the Marine Employees Commission.

Repealing clause.

SEC. 9. All acts or parts of acts in conflict with or derogation of this act or any part of this act, be and the same are hereby repealed insofar as the same are in conflict with, or in derogation of this act or any part hereof.

Partial invalidity.

SEC. 10. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this act shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the invalidity or unconstitutionality thereof shall not affect the validity or unconstitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this act.

Emergency.

SEC. 11. 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 February 16, 1949.

Passed the Senate March 5, 1949.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 1949.