

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

reimburse Wahkiakum county for sixty percent of the deficit incurred during each previous fiscal year in the operation and maintenance of the ferry, commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 1972. The state's sixty percent share of the annual operating and maintenance deficit shall include the one thousand dollars per month authorized in this subsection and the one thousand one hundred forty-two dollars and eighty-six cents per month authorized to be paid from October 1, 1973 through June 30, 1975.

(3) The annual deficit, if any, incurred in the operation and maintenance of the ferry shall be determined by Wahkiakum county subject to the approval of the Washington state highway commission. If sixty percent of the deficit for the preceding fiscal year exceeds the total amount paid to the county for that year, the additional amount shall be paid to the county by the Washington state highway commission upon the receipt of a properly executed voucher: PROVIDED, That the total of all payments to the county in any biennium shall not exceed the amount appropriated for that biennium.

~~((4) There is appropriated from the motor vehicle fund to the Washington state highway commission for the biennium ending June 30, 1973, the sum of forty thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.))~~

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The legislative transportation committee, in cooperation with the state highway commission and the boards of county commissioners of counties operating ferry systems, shall conduct a study of the operations and financing of such systems so as to determine at what level, if any, the state highway commission should provide financial assistance to these counties. A report containing the findings and recommendations shall be made to the next regular or special session of the legislature.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This 1973 amendatory 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 October 1, 1973.

Passed the Senate September 14, 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 27

[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2960]

SUPPORT OF THE COMMON SCHOOLS--

TAX REFORM

AN ACT Relating to funds for the use of the common schools; adding a