

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2704

To extend the authorization for the ferry boat discretionary program, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2003

Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself, Mr. COBLE, Mr. DICKS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. McINTYRE, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. LEE, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. HONDA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To extend the authorization for the ferry boat discretionary
program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ferry Transportation
5 Enhancement Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION**
2 **OF FERRY BOATS AND FERRY TERMINAL FA-**
3 **CILITIES.**

4 (a) FUNDING.—Section 1064(c) of the Intermodal
5 Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (23 U.S.C.
6 129 note) is amended to read as follows:

7 “(c) FUNDING.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be available,
9 out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the
10 Mass Transit Account), to the Secretary for obliga-
11 tion at the discretion of the Secretary \$150,000,000
12 for each of fiscal years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007,
13 2008, and 2009. Sums made available to carry out
14 this section shall remain available until expended.

15 “(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary
16 shall give priority in the allocation of funds under
17 this section to those ferry systems, and public enti-
18 ties responsible for developing facilities for ferries,
19 that carry the greatest number of passengers and
20 vehicles, carry the greatest number of passengers in
21 passenger-only service, or provide critical access to
22 areas that are not well-served by other modes of sur-
23 face transportation.”.

1 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY OF FERRY MAINTENANCE FACILITIES**
2 **FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.**

3 (a) MAINTENANCE FACILITIES.—Section 129(c) of
4 title 23, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by
6 inserting “and maintenance” after “terminal”; and

7 (2) in paragraph (3) by inserting “and maintenance” after “terminal” each place it appears.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1064 of
10 the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of
11 1991 (23 U.S.C. 129 note) is amended by inserting “and
12 maintenance” after “terminal” each place it appears.

13 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY OF FERRIES FOR CLEAN FUELS PRO-**
14 **GRAM.**

15 Section 5308 of title 49, United States Code, is
16 amended—

17 (1) in subsections (a)(3)(i), (a)(3)(iii), and (e)
18 by inserting “or ferries” after “buses” each place it
19 appears;

20 (2) in subsection (d) by inserting “or ferry”
21 after “bus” each place it appears;

22 (3) in the heading for subsection (e)(2) by in-
23 serting “OR FERRIES” after “BUSES”; and

24 (4) in the heading for subsection (e)(3) by in-
25 serting “OR FERRY” after “BUS”.

1 **SEC. 5. FERRY JOINT PROGRAM OFFICE.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transpor-
3 tation shall establish in the Department of Transportation
4 a Ferry Joint Program Office (in this section, referred to
5 as the “Office”) to coordinate Federal programs affecting
6 ferry boat and ferry facility construction, maintenance,
7 and operations and to promote ferry service as a compo-
8 nent of the Nation’s transportation system. The Office
9 shall coordinate ferry and ferry-related programs within
10 the Department of Transportation (including the Federal
11 Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administra-
12 tion, the Maritime Administration, and the Bureau of
13 Transportation Statistics) and with the Department of
14 Homeland Security and other Federal and State agencies,
15 as appropriate.

16 (b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Office shall
17 include—

18 (1) ensuring resource accountability;

19 (2) coordinating policy relating to ferry trans-
20 portation among the various agencies of the Depart-
21 ment of Transportation and other departments of
22 the United States Government;

23 (3) providing strategic leadership for ferry re-
24 search, development, testing, and deployment; and

1 (4) promoting ferry transportation as a means
2 to reduce social, economic, and environmental costs
3 associated with traffic congestion.

4 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL FERRY DATA BASE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation
6 shall maintain a national ferry database, which shall con-
7 tain current information regarding ferry systems, routes,
8 vessels, passengers and vehicles carried, funding sources,
9 and such other information as the Secretary deems useful.
10 The Secretary shall utilize the study generated as a result
11 of section 1207(c) of the Transportation Equity Act for
12 the 21st Century (23 U.S.C. 129 note; 112 Stat. 185–
13 186), and make modifications to that study, as appro-
14 priate.

15 (b) UPDATED DATABASE.—The Secretary shall
16 produce the first updated version of the national ferry
17 database within 1 year after the date of enactment of this
18 Act and every 2 years thereafter.

19 (c) PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall en-
20 sure that the national ferry database is easily accessible
21 to the public.

22 **SEC. 7. NATIONAL FERRY TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transpor-
24 tation shall make grants to an institution of higher edu-
25 cation, within 1 year after the date of enactment of this

1 Act, to establish a National Ferry Transportation Insti-
2 tute (in this section, referred to as the “Institute”).

3 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall develop
4 and administer the Institute in cooperation with the De-
5 partment of Transportation, State transportation depart-
6 ments, public ferry transportation authorities, private
7 ferry operators, ferry boat builders, ferry employees, and
8 other institutions of higher education and research insti-
9 tutes.

10 (c) FUNCTIONS.—The Institute shall—

11 (1) conduct research and recommend develop-
12 ment activities on methods of improving ferry trans-
13 portation programs in the United States, including
14 methods of reducing wake and providing alternative
15 propulsion;

16 (2) develop and conduct training programs for
17 ferry system employees, United States Government
18 employees, and other individuals, as appropriate, on
19 recent developments, techniques, and procedures
20 pertaining to the construction and operation of fer-
21 ries;

22 (3) encourage and assist collaborative efforts by
23 public and private entities to preserve, improve, and
24 expand the use of ferries as a mode of transpor-
25 tation; and

1 (4) preserve, utilize, and display historical in-
2 formation about the use of ferries in the United
3 States and in foreign countries.

4 (c) LOCATION.—In selecting the location for the In-
5 stitute, the Secretary shall consider—

6 (1) the importance of public and private ferries
7 to the region’s transportation system, including both
8 regional travel and long-range travel and service to
9 isolated communities;

10 (2) the historical importance of ferry transpor-
11 tation to the region;

12 (3) the history and diversity of the region’s
13 maritime community, including ferry construction
14 and repair and other shipbuilding activities;

15 (4) the anticipated growth of ferry service and
16 ferry boat building in the region;

17 (5) the availability of public-private collabora-
18 tion in the region; and

19 (6) the presence of nationally recognized re-
20 search universities in the region.

21 (d) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appro-
22 priated to the Secretary of Transportation \$2,000,000 for
23 each of fiscal years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and
24 2009, to carry out activities under this section by the In-
25 stitute. The Secretary may authorize the acceptance and

1 expenditure of funding provided to the Institute by public
2 and private entities.

3 (e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall report to Congress
4 not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
5 Act, and annually thereafter, on the activities of the Insti-
6 tute and the progress in carrying out this section.

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