



# **2022 Ferry Fare Adjustment**

## ***Fare Policy for 18 & Under Passengers***

**May 18, 2022**

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# Presentation Agenda

- Direction in Law
- Potential Revenue Impacts
- WSF Implementation Considerations
- Proposed WAC Policy Changes
- Proposed Fare Setting Schedule



# Direction in Law

Move Ahead Washington Resources Bill (ESSB 5974) – Sec. 421

*Consistent with RCW 47.60.315(1)(b), the commission shall adopt an annual fare policy for Washington state ferries to allow **all riders 18 years of age and younger to ride free of charge on all system routes**. This fare change **must apply to both walk-on passengers and passengers in vehicles**. The commission is directed to make the initial fare policy change **effective no later than October 1, 2022**.*

# Potential Revenue Impacts

An estimated **\$1.6 - \$2.2 million per year** is necessary to fund this exemption

- **\$32 million** has been appropriated to fund the exemption over the 16-year period of the Move Ahead Washington Bill
- **\$600,000** has been appropriated to fund the exemption for the 2021-23 biennium

The \$32 million provided by the Legislature is expected to cover this fare exemption over the 16-year horizon. However, the \$600,000 provided for the 2021-23 biennium may be insufficient based upon current estimates.

# WSF Implementation Considerations

WSF is assessing how it can implement the new 18 & Under Free Passenger Fare Policy in a way that is least disruptive to operations and the traveling public.

Some of the things being assessed so far:

- Coordinating with ORCA partners to develop **region-wide policy** for age verification. Possible approaches include:
  - Requesting **ORCA Youth Cards, School-Issued IDs, and/or State-Issued IDs/driver's licenses**
- Assessing the ability to offer this fare type at kiosks

# WSF Implementation Considerations

Additional implementation considerations include:

- **Safety and Security Challenges**
  - Accurate count of passengers required by the U. S. Coast Guard
- **Signage Changes**
  - Signage will need to be updated to reflect the fare change

# Proposed WAC Policy Change

## WAC 468-300-010 – Ferry Passenger Tolls

- **Current Policy Language**

CHILDREN/YOUTH - Children under six years of age will be carried free when accompanied by parent or guardian. Children/youths six through eighteen years of age will be charged the youth fare, which will be 50% of full fare rounded down to the nearest multiple of \$0.05.

- **Proposed Policy Language**

CHILDREN/YOUTH – Children/youth passengers eighteen years and under will ride free of charge on all system routes.



# Proposed Fare Setting Schedule

Because the Legislature has explicitly directed the Commission on this exemption, the policy can be implemented through the **CR-105 expedited rulemaking process**.

Date	Milestone
May 18, 2022, WSTC Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work Session / Present Proposed WAC Changes</li><li>• Commission take action to begin the CR-105 expedited rulemaking process</li></ul>
June 1, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WSTC Files CR-105 Expedited Rulemaking Form (by noon)</li></ul>
August 2, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WSTC Files CR-103P Rulemaking Form</li></ul>
September 3, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rule goes into effect</li></ul>
October 1, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 18 &amp; Under Free Passenger Fare Policy goes into effect</li></ul>



# Questions / Contact

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