

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of	DOCKET TP-240966
PUGET SOUND PILOTAGE DISTRICT TARIFF,	ORDER 01
Proposed Revisions to Tariff for training stipend.	ALLOWING REVISED TARIFF TO TAKE EFFECT

**BACKGROUND**

1 On December 17, 2024, the Board of Pilotage Commissioners (BPC) sent a letter to the Washington Utility and Transportation Commission (Commission) notifying the Commission that at the November 21, 2024, BPC meeting, the BPC authorized an increase to the training stipend. The current rate is \$19, and the new rate will be \$23.

2 The BPC has the legal right to set the tariff rate for the training stipend.<sup>1</sup> The Commission is required to publish this rate in the pilotage tariff.<sup>2</sup> Given the notification from the BPC, Commission staff (Staff) revised the Commission published tariff for the Puget Sound Pilotage District. The revisions are shown in the redline version of the tariff posted in this docket.

3 On January 14, 2025, the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA) filed a letter with the Commission, including a copy of a letter PMSA filed with the BPC, requesting that the Commission not “endorse any of the underlying actions, assertions, claims, or allegations made by the BPC in its own proceedings” relating to the change in the training stipend.

4 Staff recommends that the Commission take no action and allow the tariff revisions to take effect on January 17, 2025, by operation of law.

5 This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting on January 16, 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> RCW 88.16.035(2)

<sup>2</sup> RCW 81.116.020

## DISCUSSION

6 We agree with Staff and will allow BPC’s tariffs to go into effect with the revised training stipend proposed. Under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 88.16.035(1)(b), and (2), the BPC, not the Commission, is authorized to establish the training stipend at issue in this matter. RCW 81.116.020(4) provides in part, that “[i]n setting tariffs, the commission must include a tariff surcharge to fund the stipend the board of pilotage commissioners is authorized to pay to pilot trainees and to use in its pilot training program under RCW 88.16.035.” By statute, we must include this stipend and pass through the BPC’s amendment to the stipend by including the change in the tariff for the Puget Sound Pilots.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7 (1) The Commission is an agency of the state of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates for pilotage services provided under chapter 88.16 RCW.
- 8 (2) The BPC is created by statute, and has the authority to assist the Commission in setting tariffs. Additionally, the BPC is authorized to pay stipends to pilot trainees.
- 9 (3) On December 17, 2024, the BPC notified the Commission of its approval authorizing an increase of the training stipend for the Puget Sound Pilotage District. Staff created a revised version of the tariff for the Puget Sound Pilotage District.
- 10 (4) On January 14, 2025, PMSA filed a letter with the Commission requesting that the Commission not “endorse any of the underlying actions, assertions, claims, or allegations made by the BPC in its own proceedings” relating to the change in the training stipend.
- 11 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting on January 16, 2025.
- 12 (6) After reviewing Staff’s revised tariff pages and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission allows the revised tariff pages to go into effect, as required by RCW 88.16.035 and 81.116.020.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 13 (1) The revisions proposed to the Puget Sound Pilotage District Tariff by the Board of Pilotage Commissioners, noticed on December 17, 2025, may go into effect on January 17, 2025.
- 14 (2) This Order shall not affect the Commission's authority over rates, services, accounts, valuations, estimates, or determination of costs, on any matters that may come before it.
- 15 The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective January 16, 2025.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner



MILT DOUMIT, Commissioner