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CHAPTER 15.

PROVISIONS AFFECTING FERRIES ONLY

**SECTION 57‑15‑10.** Establishment and operation of ferries and terminals by Department of Transportation and counties.

(A) The Department of Transportation may provide for the establishment, operation, maintenance, and supervision of public ferries connecting parts of the state highway system.

(B) The governing body of a county may provide for the establishment, operation, maintenance, and supervision of public ferries connecting parts of public roads located within the county that are not under the control of the department.

(C) Where the boundary line between adjoining counties runs though a river or other body of water, the governing bodies of the counties may enter into an agreement providing for the establishment, operation, maintenance, and supervision of public ferries connecting state roads in the counties that are not under control of the department.

(D) The department, or a county governing body, may acquire, own, lease, charter, or otherwise control all vessels, boats, terminals, or other facilities required for the proper operation of ferries established and operated pursuant to this section.

**SECTION 57‑15‑20.** Agreements with private entities.

The department and county governing bodies may enter into agreements with private entities to finance, acquire, construct, equip, maintain, or operate public ferries, in whole or in part, in this State.

**SECTION 57‑15‑30.** Contributions to defray operational or maintenance expenses; immunity.

Contributions from private citizens or public or private entities may be made to defray the operational or maintenance expenses of a ferry operated or maintained pursuant to this chapter. Contributors are immune from civil or criminal liability for damages resulting from acts or omissions of the ferry operator.

**SECTIONS 57‑15‑40 to 57‑15‑130.** Omitted by 2008, Act No. 250, Section 1, eff June 4, 2008.

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**SECTIONS 57‑15‑40 to 57‑15‑130.** Omitted by 2008, Act No. 250, Section 1, eff June 4, 2008.

**SECTION 57‑15‑140.** Operation of certain ferries on intracoastal waterways; repeal of section; transfer of ferry vessel.

(A) The Department of Transportation shall take over, maintain, and operate the ferry across the intracoastal waterway which traverses State Highway No. 716 which extends from a point on U. S. Highway No. 17, south of Georgetown, in a southeasterly direction, to Winyah Bay, such ferry and its approaches to form a part of State Highway No. 716 in Georgetown County. The provisions of Article 13 of Chapter 5 of this title shall not apply to the operation, repair, or maintenance of any such ferry.

Contributions from private citizens or public or private agencies may be made with respect to defraying the operational or maintenance expenses of such ferry; provided, however, that any such contribution shall in no wise render legally liable or responsible any of the contributors.

(B) This section is repealed effective July 1, 2009.

(C) As of the date of repeal, the Department of Transportation will be free of any further obligation to operate the ferry required by this section and it may transfer the ferry vessel free of charge to the Department of Natural Resources for its use or disposition.