

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SB 6408

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As Passed House - Amended  
March 3, 1994

**Title:** An act relating to including tribal authorities in mental health systems.

**Brief Description:** Including tribal authorities in mental health systems.

**Sponsors:** Senators Spanel, Owen, Prentice, Sheldon, Fraser and Hargrove.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Human Services, February 23, 1994, DPA.  
Passed House - Amended, March 3, 1994, 95-0

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Leonard, Chair; Thibaudeau, Vice Chair; Cooke, Ranking Minority Member; Talcott, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Brown; Caver; Karahalios; Lisk; Padden; Patterson and Wolfe.

**Staff:** Dave Knutson (786-7146).

**Background:** Under current law, a county or a group of counties whose population is greater than 40,000 persons may enter a joint operating agreement to form a regional support network to plan, organize and deliver mental health services according to a contract with the state Department of Social and Health Services.

Under current law, no statutory requirement exists for a tribal authority to be party to such a joint operating agreement.

**Summary of Bill:** The term "tribal authority" is defined as a federally recognized Native American tribe or a major Native American organization recognized by the secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services.

Upon their request, a tribal authority must be included as a party to a joint operating agreement to establish a regional support network. The joint operating agreement must include

a determination of tribal authority membership on the governing board and advisory boards and must include provision for culturally competent services to the tribes served.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** Tribal authorities should be allowed to participate in mental health planning and service delivery.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** Randy Scott, Quinault, Colville and Lummi Tribes (pro); David Hanig, Department of Social and Health Services (pro); and Gabriel Landry, Department of Social and Health Services (pro).