
SUBSTITUTE SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8404

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl, Gaspard, Pelz, Winsley, Franklin, Snyder, Sutherland, Haugen, Sheldon, Prentice, Deccio, C. Anderson and Bauer)

Read first time 01/11/96.

1 WHEREAS, The residents of Washington should be safe from life and
2 property loss due to fire; and

3 WHEREAS, Automatic fire extinguishing systems, including
4 sprinklers, have been proven to save lives and prevent property loss;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Many of Washington's existing residential and commercial
7 building structures do not have adequate fire prevention and
8 suppression devices including automatic fire extinguishing systems; and

9 WHEREAS, Residents of the state have suffered significant life and
10 property loss in fires occurring in buildings not equipped with such
11 systems; and

12 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes that there are substantial
13 financial and administrative burdens associated with the installation
14 of these systems that cannot be borne solely by building owners
15 themselves; and

16 WHEREAS, There has been little progress by local jurisdictions to
17 address this issue;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of
19 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a Joint
20 Select Committee on Fire Suppression be established to:

1 (1) Investigate the problems of insufficient fire prevention,
2 inadequate fire suppression, and building structures without sprinklers
3 in Washington state;

4 (2) Review the actions of other jurisdictions nation-wide to
5 address the issues of fire prevention, fire suppression, and
6 retrofitting for fire sprinklers; and

7 (3) Make recommendations to the legislature and to the governor
8 regarding ways that the legislature, local jurisdictions, fire
9 protection services, and the private sector can work cooperatively to
10 reduce the financial and administrative burdens to retrofitting
11 existing building structures with automatic fire extinguishing systems;
12 and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That:

14 (1) The committee consist of four voting members, one from each
15 major caucus of the Senate and the House of Representatives to be
16 appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
17 of Representatives, respectively;

18 (2) The State Fire Marshal shall be an ex officio nonvoting member
19 of the joint committee;

20 (3) The members of the joint committee shall select from among
21 their voting members a chair and other officers as the committee deems
22 appropriate;

23 (4) The joint committee may appoint as needed to carry out its
24 duties the following:

25 (a) Subcommittees; and

26 (b) Advisory groups of nonmembers;

27 (5) The Senate Committee Services and the House of Representatives
28 Office of Program Research shall provide staffing to the committee; and

29 (6) All expenses and hiring of additional staff shall be subject to
30 the approval of the Senate Facilities and Operations Committee and the
31 House of Representatives Executive Rules Committee; and

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall report its
33 findings and recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 1997.

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