
SUBSTITUTE SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8422

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators T. Sheldon, Swecker, Fraser, Oke, Kohl-Welles, B. Sheldon, Snyder, Spanel, Heavey, Thibaudeau, Rossi, Prentice, Hale, Fairley, Morton, McAuliffe, Gardner, Rasmussen, Jacobsen, Haugen, Eide, Kline, Patterson, Franklin, Winsley and Costa)

Read first time 1/25/00.

1 WHEREAS, The members of the Washington state legislature recognize
2 there are twenty-eight federally recognized Indian tribes located
3 within the boundaries of Washington state with a combined population of
4 approximately ninety-one thousand members occupying over three and a
5 quarter million acres of land; and

6 WHEREAS, Those twenty-eight tribes are operating governments with
7 responsibilities to their citizens and their lands like those of the
8 state to its territory and citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, The relationship on an intergovernmental basis between the
10 Washington state legislature and these Indian tribes has seen only a
11 very limited level of development; and

12 WHEREAS, Because of these limitations, there is a need to inform
13 and educate members of the legislature and their staff on the status
14 and operations of tribal governments and to educate and inform tribal
15 elected officials and their staff on the operations of the legislature;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of
17 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a joint
18 select committee on legislative/tribal relations be established to
19 review, study, and recommend how the legislature and tribes may develop
20 more effective relationships and arrange for intergovernmental

1 mechanisms in order to be able to work together on common interests and
2 problems; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the efforts of the committee shall
4 include a study of how other state legislatures and tribal governments
5 handle their intergovernmental relationships and recommend methods of
6 addressing issues that are significant in the area of state/tribal
7 relations and that the committee may hold hearings and seek out the
8 expertise of state and tribal agencies to understand and make
9 recommendations on issues the committee may agree to address; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of twelve
11 members, to be comprised of eight state legislators and four tribal
12 elected officials. Four members shall be from the Senate, two from
13 each caucus, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; four
14 members from the House of Representatives, two from each caucus, to be
15 appointed by the Co-Speakers of the House of Representatives; and four
16 elected officials from among the twenty-eight federally recognized
17 tribes, who shall be representative of the demographic, geographic, and
18 cultural differences among the tribes, as well as other relevant
19 variables, to be appointed by the Chair of the Association of
20 Washington Tribes. An ad hoc member may be designated by the Governor
21 to be a representative of the Governor and the executive branch; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall be co-chaired by
23 a legislative member and a tribal member. The members of the
24 legislature appointed to the committee shall select their co-chair and
25 the tribal members of the committee shall select their co-chair, the
26 expenses of the committee shall be paid by the legislature under
27 chapter 44.04 RCW, staff support for the committee shall be provided by
28 the senate committee services and house of representatives office of
29 program research and the Northwest Indian applied research institute
30 located at The Evergreen State College, and the committee may also call
31 upon any of the state agencies and tribal governments to assist in
32 research and provide information; and

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall present its report
34 and recommendations to the legislature not later than December 1, 2000;
35 and

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall terminate on
37 December 15, 2000.

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