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**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8422**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**2000 Regular Session**

**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 and Patterson

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

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.

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