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**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8427**

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**State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      2000 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Kohl-Welles, Long, B. Sheldon, Goings, Patterson, Eide, Prentice, Jacobsen and Brown

Read first time 02/02/2000. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            WHEREAS, The higher education students of Washington should be safe  
2 from life and 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, Some of Washington's existing higher education student  
7 residence halls do not have automatic fire extinguishing systems; and

8            WHEREAS, Higher education students in other states have suffered  
9 significant life and property loss in fires occurring in student  
10 residence halls not equipped with such systems; and

11            WHEREAS, The legislature recognizes that there are substantial  
12 financial and administrative burdens associated with the installation  
13 of these systems that cannot be borne solely by the owners of student  
14 residence halls; and

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

17            NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of  
18 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a joint  
19 select committee on fire suppression in student residence halls be  
20 established to:

1 (1) Investigate the lack of automatic fire extinguishing systems in  
2 student residence halls owned or operated by institutions of higher  
3 education in Washington state;

4 (2) Review the actions of other jurisdictions nation-wide to  
5 address the issue of retrofitting higher education student residence  
6 halls for automatic fire extinguishing systems; and

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

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That:

14 (1) The committee consist of eight voting members, two 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 Co-Speakers of the  
17 House of Representatives, respectively;

18 (2) The director of fire protection shall be an ex officio  
19 nonvoting member 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 the following as needed to  
24 carry out its duties:

25 (a) Subcommittees; and

26 (b) Advisory groups of nonmembers;

27 (5) Senate committee services and the office of program research  
28 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 report its findings and  
33 recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 2001, and terminate  
34 January 31, 2001.

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