
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8403

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Senators T. Sheldon, Swecker, Kline, Regala, Prentice and Costa

Read first time 01/10/2001. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 WHEREAS, The members of the Washington state legislature recognize
2 there are twenty-nine federally recognized Indian tribes located within
3 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-nine 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
21 mechanisms in order to be able to work together on common interests and

1 problems, such as court jurisdiction, human services, gaming, tax and
2 revenue, historic preservation, and environmental issues; 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
11 fourteen members, to be comprised of eight state legislators and six
12 tribal elected officials. Four members shall be from the Senate, two
13 from 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 Cospeakers of the House of Representatives; and six
16 elected officials from among the twenty-nine federally recognized
17 tribes, who shall be selected at a meeting of the federally recognized
18 tribes convened by the Association of Washington Tribes within sixty
19 days following enactment of this resolution. Tribal participants in
20 the meeting shall be elected officials of their respective tribes. The
21 names of those selected to be members shall immediately be transmitted
22 by the Association of Washington Tribes to the legislature. An ad hoc
23 member may be designated by the Governor to be a representative of the
24 Governor and the executive branch; and

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

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall present its report
37 and recommendations to the legislature not later than December 1, 2001;
38 and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall terminate on
2 December 15, 2001.

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