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**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8426**

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**State of Washington 57th Legislature**

**2002 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Kohl-Welles, Winsley, Thibaudeau, McAuliffe, Franklin, Fairley and Fraser

Read first time 01/30/2002. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 WHEREAS, Exposure to indoor mold has been associated with adverse  
2 health effects, particularly among people with allergies or asthma; and

3 WHEREAS, More than 300 mold species have been found to produce  
4 toxins, and these toxins have been found to have adverse health effects  
5 on some people's immune and central nervous systems. The adverse  
6 health effects include loss of memory, impairment of the ability to  
7 think coherently and function in a job, and may cause fatigue, nausea,  
8 and headaches; and

9 WHEREAS, Surveys show that 30 to 50 percent of all structures in  
10 the northern United States have damp conditions that may encourage the  
11 growth and buildup of mold; and

12 WHEREAS, Prudent public health practices dictate taking steps to  
13 limit the public's exposure to the possible adverse health effects of  
14 indoor mold; and

15 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes that further study of the  
16 health effects of exposure to mold is warranted and that there may be  
17 financial and administrative burdens associated with efforts to reduce  
18 the risks associated with exposure to mold;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of  
20 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a Joint  
21 Select Committee on Indoor Mold Contamination be created to:

1 (1) Examine the health effects of exposure to mold on the general  
2 population, including specific effects on members of subgroups that  
3 make up a significant portion of the general population, which may  
4 include infants, children age six years of age and younger, pregnant  
5 women, the elderly, asthmatics, allergic individuals, immune  
6 compromised individuals, and other subgroups that may be at greater  
7 risk of adverse health effects from mold;

8 (2) Review the actions of other jurisdictions nationwide to address  
9 the public health threat associated with indoor mold;

10 (3) Make recommendations to the Legislature and to the Governor  
11 regarding ways that the Legislature and the private sector can work  
12 cooperatively to reduce the risk associated with exposure to mold; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That: (1) The committee consist of the  
14 following four voting members: One member from each major caucus of  
15 the Senate and the House of Representatives to be appointed by the  
16 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
17 Representatives, respectively.

18 (2) The Secretary of the Department of Health shall be an ex  
19 officio nonvoting member of the joint committee.

20 (3) The members of the joint committee shall also 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 entities as  
24 needed to carry out its duties:

25 (a) Subcommittees; and

26 (b) Advisory groups of nonmembers, whose membership may include,  
27 but is not limited to, representatives of the local health district  
28 officers, local health district environmental health officials, code  
29 enforcement officers, experts on the health effects of indoor mold,  
30 school districts, apartment owners, commercial property owners,  
31 homeowners, tenants, and industrial hygienists.

32 (5) Senate Committee Services and the House of Representatives  
33 Office of Program Research shall provide staffing to the committee.

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

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall report its  
2 findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 2003.

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