

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5079

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As of January 19, 2009

**Title:** An act relating to the Nordic Heritage Museum.

**Brief Description:** Designating the official Nordic Museum.

**Sponsors:** Senators Jacobsen, Haugen, Holmquist, Kohl-Welles and Roach.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Government Operations & Elections: 1/19/09.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

**Staff:** Edward Redmond (786-7471)

**Background:** The Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle opened in 1980. The mission of the museum is to share the history and influence immigrants from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden have had on the Pacific Northwest. The museum shares Nordic culture with patrons by exhibiting art and objects, preserving collections, providing educational and cultural experiences, and serving as a community gathering place. The Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle is visited by over 50,000 patrons annually.

**Summary of Bill:** The Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle is designated as the official Nordic Museum of Washington State.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: The Nordic Museum in Seattle is the only museum in the country that has grouped all five Nordic countries together within one museum. The Nordic Museum identifies, protects, and displays the heritage of immigrants that came to the Pacific Northwest at the turn of the 20th century.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Sven Kalve, Nordic Heritage Museum.