

2SHB 1357 - H AMD 405

By Representative Sawyer

1 On page 2, at the beginning of line 17, strike "legislative  
2 council" and insert "joint committee"

3 Beginning on page 2, line 19, strike sections 2 through 10 and  
4 insert the following:

5 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) A joint committee on tribal-state  
6 relations is established, with members as provided in this subsection  
7 (1).

8 (i) The president of the senate must appoint four members from  
9 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

10 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives must appoint  
11 four members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
12 representatives.

13 (b) Executive agencies, including the department of fish and  
14 wildlife, the department of natural resources, and the governor's  
15 office of Indian affairs, must cooperate with the committee and  
16 provide information as the cochairs may reasonably request.

17 (c) The committee must choose its cochairs from among its  
18 membership. The two cochairs must represent different chambers as  
19 well as different political parties.

20 (2) The committee must serve as a forum for effective government-  
21 to-government communications and seek to foster resolution of issues  
22 of mutual concern between the tribes and the state. The committee  
23 must consider the needs and concerns of tribal groups and  
24 organizations in Washington, as well as the needs and concerns of all  
25 American Indians in Washington.

26 (3) The cochairs may schedule up to two meetings per year, at  
27 least one of which must be scheduled in Olympia to coincide with  
28 committee assembly meetings convened by either the senate or the  
29 house of representatives. Committee meetings must be scheduled and  
30 conducted in accordance with the requirements of both the senate and  
31 the house of representatives. By December 15th of each year, and in  
32 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the cochairs must develop and submit

1 an annual report of committee activities, findings, and  
2 recommendations to the governor and the legislature.

3 (4) Staff support for the committee is provided by senate  
4 committee services and the house of representatives' office of  
5 program research.

6 (5) Legislative members of the committee are reimbursed for  
7 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

8 (6) The expenses of the committee must be paid jointly by the  
9 senate and the house of representatives. Committee expenditures are  
10 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee  
11 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their  
12 successor committees.

13 (7) The committee may not abrogate or supersede negotiations or  
14 relations that any Indian tribe, band, or group might have or develop  
15 individually with any state, federal, or local government.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act constitute a  
17 new chapter in Title 44 RCW.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire July  
19 1, 2025."

20 Renumber the remaining section consecutively, correct any  
21 internal references accordingly, and correct the title.

EFFECT: Establishes an eight-member joint committee on tribal-  
state relations instead of a separate legislative agency on Indian  
affairs. Provides for four Senate members and four House members,  
with cochairs representing both the Senate and the House as well as  
different caucuses. Requires cooperation from executive agencies.

Requires the committee to: Serve as a forum for effective  
government-to-government communications; seek to foster resolution of  
issues of mutual concern between the tribes and the state; and  
consider the needs and concerns of tribal groups and organizations  
and all American Indians in Washington.

Authorizes the cochairs to schedule up to two meetings per year,  
including one in Olympia during Committee Assembly. Requires the  
cochairs to submit annual reports by December 15th.

Requires expenses to be paid jointly by the Senate and the House,  
and meetings to be scheduled and conducted in accordance with Senate  
and House requirements. Provides for staff support by Senate  
Committee Services and the Office of Program Research.

Bars the committee from abrogating or superseding negotiations or relations of any Indian tribe with any state, federal, or local government.

--- END ---