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HOUSE BILL 1509

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Shea and McCaslin

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the new state of Liberty;  
2 creating new sections and providing a contingent effective date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A separate and independent state is  
5 established from the eastern portions of Washington. The new state is  
6 named and known as the state of Liberty. The western boundary of  
7 Liberty follows the crest of the Cascade mountains and the western  
8 borders of Okanogan, Chelan, Kittitas, Yakima, and Klickitat  
9 counties. The eastern, northern, and southern borders of Liberty are  
10 the existing state borders.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Transition committees are established  
12 to assist in the formation of the new state of Liberty. Each  
13 transition committee shall be responsible for developing and adopting  
14 a master plan for its respective policy area to establish the  
15 government of the state of Liberty. Transition committees are  
16 established for the following policy areas:

- 17 (a) Executive functions;
- 18 (b) Legislative functions;
- 19 (c) Judicial functions and courts;
- 20 (d) Local government functions and local elections;

- 1 (e) Statewide elections;
- 2 (f) Debt;
- 3 (g) Revenue and taxes;
- 4 (h) Infrastructure;
- 5 (i) Transportation;
- 6 (j) Education;
- 7 (k) Ecology and natural resources;
- 8 (l) Public safety and law enforcement;
- 9 (m) Labor and personnel;
- 10 (n) Agriculture; and
- 11 (o) Health care.

12 (2) (a) Each transition committee is comprised of four state  
13 legislators and one expert, consultant, or other support staff,  
14 including an attorney not employed by the attorney general.

15 (b) The four legislators on each transition committee are chosen  
16 as follows:

17 (i) The speaker of the house of representatives, the minority  
18 leader of the house of representatives, the senate majority leader,  
19 and the senate minority leader shall each choose one legislator from  
20 his or her caucus to serve on each transition committee.

21 (ii) Of the two legislators chosen by majority leadership, one  
22 must represent a district that predominately lies west of the crest  
23 of the Cascade mountains, and the other must represent a district  
24 that predominately lies east of the crest of the Cascade mountains.

25 (iii) Of the two legislators chosen by minority leadership, one  
26 must represent a district that predominately lies west of the crest  
27 of the Cascade mountains, and the other must represent a district  
28 that predominately lies east of the crest of the Cascade mountains.

29 (c) The expert, consultant, or other support staff on each  
30 transition committee is chosen by a majority vote of the four  
31 legislators on the transition committee.

32 (3) The membership of each transition committee must be finalized  
33 within thirty days after this section takes effect.

34 (4) The governor shall call the first meeting of the transition  
35 committees, to be held within forty-five days after the committee  
36 membership is finalized.

37 (5) Each transition committee must develop its master plan within  
38 two years of the effective date of this section.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    This act takes effect immediately upon the  
2 United States congress's consent to the formation of a new state of  
3 Liberty in accordance with Article IV, section 3 of the United States  
4 Constitution.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    The governor shall provide written notice  
6 of the effective date of this act to affected parties, the chief  
7 clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary of state, the  
8 office of the code reviser, and others as deemed appropriate by the  
9 governor.

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