

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5921

As of January 8, 2024

Title: An act relating to tribal representation on the state conservation commission.

Brief Description: Concerning tribal representation on the state conservation commission.

Sponsors: Senators Stanford and Van De Wege; by request of Conservation Commission.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks: 1/11/24.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Specifies that one of the members of the State Conservation Commission appointed by the Governor shall be a member or representative from a federally recognized tribe.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, WATER, NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

Staff: Jeff Olsen (786-7428)

Background: The Conservation Commission (Commission) is a state agency created to assist and guide conservation districts in preparing and implementing resource conservation programs. The Commission provides informational and technical assistance to conservation districts throughout Washington. The Commission also recommends and administers funding, distributes funds to conservation districts, and reviews conservation district budgets and annual reports.

The Commission is governed by a ten member board consisting of Governor appointees, other state agencies, and conservation districts. The Governor appoints two members, one of whom must be a land owner or farm operator, who serve four-year terms. Three Commission board members are elected by the conservation district supervisors, and at least

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two must be land owners or farm operators. The elected members serve three-year terms. The other five members serve as ex-officio members of the Commission including the Director of the Department of Ecology, the Director of the Department of Agriculture; the Commissioner of Public Lands; the President of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts; and the Dean of the College of Agriculture at Washington State University.

Summary of Bill: One of the members of the State Conservation Commission appointed by the Governor must be a member or representative from a federally recognized tribe.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

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