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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4401**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2001 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Rockefeller, Woods, Hunt and Lantz)

READ FIRST TIME 02/19/01.

1       WHEREAS, The legislature recognizes that there has been an  
2 increase in the number of derelict vessels that have been  
3 abandoned by their owners and that are either grounded or anchored  
4 upon state-owned aquatic lands; and

5       WHEREAS, These vessels often pose hazards to navigation, and  
6 threaten the environment with the potential release of hazardous  
7 materials; and

8       WHEREAS, The legislature finds that the solution used by the  
9 United States coast guard and the army corps of engineers of  
10 sinking derelict vessels into deep water can still result in the  
11 release of hazardous materials and can also disrupt the natural  
12 structure of bedlands; and

13       WHEREAS, The legislature further finds that the costs  
14 associated with the disposal of derelict vessels are very high,  
15 and that there is generally no way to track down the vessel owners  
16 in order to seek compensation;

17       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives  
18 of the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That a joint  
19 select committee on the disposal of derelict vessels be  
20 established to review the current duties and responsibilities of

1 vessel owners, the department of natural resources, and federal  
2 agencies regarding derelict vessels; to develop recommendations on  
3 measures that may help prevent the abandonment of derelict  
4 vessels; to develop recommendations for the disposal and for  
5 funding the disposal of derelict vessels; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee consist of eight  
7 members, four members selected by the President of the Senate,  
8 with two members from each of the two major political parties; and  
9 four members selected by the Co-Speakers of the House of  
10 Representatives, with two members appointed by each Co-Speaker;  
11 and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee consult with  
13 representatives of public ports, cities, counties, the department  
14 of natural resources, the department of ecology, the department of  
15 health, the Puget Sound water quality action team, the office of  
16 the attorney general, owners of private marinas, the commercial  
17 fishing industry, sport fishers, recreational boaters,  
18 environmental organizations, the appropriate federal agencies, and  
19 other interested groups in developing the recommendations; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the staffing for the joint select  
21 committee be provided by the house office of program research and  
22 senate committee services; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee report its findings  
24 and recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 2002.

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