
ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4400

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Cody, Kagi, Johnson, Appleton, Frame, Ormsby, Jinkins, Short, Young, DeBolt, Hudgins, and Tarleton

Prefiled 01/04/17. Read first time 01/09/17. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 WHEREAS, Representative Helen Sommers honorably and
2 distinguishably served the people of the 36th Legislative District
3 for thirty-six years; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Sommers chaired with distinction five
5 different House committees: State Government, Revenue, Higher
6 Education, Capital Budget, and Appropriations; and

7 WHEREAS, Many generations of Washington students owe a debt of
8 gratitude to Representative Sommers for her unwavering belief in the
9 benefits of a good education; and

10 WHEREAS, Although the intricacies of pension law confounded many
11 public policy experts, her persistent dedication to the sometimes
12 obscure principles of pension funding has ensured a stable, well-
13 funded pension system for the taxpayers and public employees of the
14 state; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Sommers' service spanned seven governors,
16 nine speakers, and countless legislators; and

17 WHEREAS, As a very young woman, Helen Sommers had the courage to
18 leave her home in New Jersey to live and work in Venezuela; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Gary Alexander, the former ranking member
20 of the House Appropriations Committee, said that, "I hope someday
21 there will be a building named on this Capitol Campus for one of the
22 great leaders in our budgetary operations in the state"; and

1 WHEREAS, Although as tough as the budget can be and as
2 contentious as it can be, Appropriations Committee members always had
3 a laugh. They got along due to the fact that Representative Sommers
4 ran the meeting in a fashion where everyone was treated with respect;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Sommers brought a University of
7 Washington arborist to Olympia to identify and photograph the many
8 beautiful and unique trees on the Capitol Campus and then had a
9 booklet printed to provide a self-guided tour of twenty of the most
10 interesting trees; and

11 WHEREAS, Over her many years in the Legislature, various members
12 have used many different words when describing their relationship
13 with Representative Sommers, including: Trepidation, intimidation,
14 fear, love, but most often, respect; and

15 WHEREAS, The Legislature is authorized to approve names for
16 certain state facilities based on recommendations from the State
17 Capitol Committee and the Department of Enterprise Services, with the
18 advice of the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee and subject to
19 specific criteria; and

20 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature wishes to honor
21 Representative Sommers with a lasting memorial to her dedication and
22 service in the Legislature;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Washington State House of
24 Representatives, the Washington State Senate concurring, That the new
25 state office building commonly referred to as the "1063 Building" be
26 named the Helen Sommers Building; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Enterprise
28 Services place the name "Helen Sommers Building" on the new office
29 building; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
31 forwarded to Helen Sommers; the Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor of the
32 State of Washington; and Chris Liu, Director of the Department of
33 Enterprise Services.

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