
SUBSTITUTE SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8403

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators T. Sheldon, Swecker, Kline, Regala, Prentice and Costa)

Read first time 02/13/2001. Referred to Committee on .

1 WHEREAS, The members of the Washington state legislature recognize
2 there are twenty-nine federally recognized Indian tribes located within
3 the boundaries of Washington state with a combined population of
4 approximately ninety-one thousand members occupying over three and a
5 quarter million acres of land; and

6 WHEREAS, Those twenty-nine tribes are operating governments with
7 responsibilities to their citizens and their lands like those of the
8 state to its territory and citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, The relationship on an intergovernmental basis between the
10 Washington state legislature and these Indian tribes has seen only a
11 very limited level of development; and

12 WHEREAS, Because of these limitations, there is a need to inform
13 and educate members of the legislature and their staff on the status
14 and operations of tribal governments and to educate and inform tribal
15 elected officials and their staff on the operations of the legislature;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of
17 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a joint
18 legislative task force on legislative/tribal relations be established
19 to review, study, and recommend how the legislature and tribes may
20 develop more effective relationships and arrange for intergovernmental
21 mechanisms in order to be able to work together on common interests and

1 problems, such as court jurisdiction, human services, gaming, tax and
2 revenue, historic preservation, and environmental issues; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the efforts of the task force shall
4 include a study of how other state legislatures and tribal governments
5 handle their intergovernmental relationships and recommend methods of
6 addressing issues that are significant in the area of state/tribal
7 relations and that the task force may hold hearings and seek out the
8 expertise of state and tribal agencies to understand and make
9 recommendations on issues the task force may agree to address; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall consist of eight
11 state legislators. Four members shall be from the Senate, two from
12 each caucus, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; four
13 members from the House of Representatives, two from each caucus, to be
14 appointed by the Cospeakers of the House of Representatives; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an invitation by the legislative task
16 force shall be sent to all federally recognized tribes to participate
17 in the study and address the task force regarding each tribe's
18 respective ideas on developing effective legislative/tribal
19 relationships; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force and participating
21 tribes shall present their reports and recommendations to the
22 legislature not later than December 1, 2001; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall terminate on
24 December 15, 2001.

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