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**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8403**

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**State of Washington****57th Legislature****2001 Regular Session****By** Senators T. Sheldon, Swecker, Kline, Regala, Prentice and Costa

Read first time 01/10/2001. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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 select committee on legislative/tribal relations be established to  
19 review, study, and recommend how the legislature and tribes may develop  
20 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 committee 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 committee may hold hearings and seek out the  
8 expertise of state and tribal agencies to understand and make  
9 recommendations on issues the committee may agree to address; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of  
11 fourteen members, to be comprised of eight state legislators and six  
12 tribal elected officials. Four members shall be from the Senate, two  
13 from each caucus, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; four  
14 members from the House of Representatives, two from each caucus, to be  
15 appointed by the Cospeakers of the House of Representatives; and six  
16 elected officials from among the twenty-nine federally recognized  
17 tribes, who shall be selected at a meeting of the federally recognized  
18 tribes convened by the Association of Washington Tribes within sixty  
19 days following enactment of this resolution. Tribal participants in  
20 the meeting shall be elected officials of their respective tribes. The  
21 names of those selected to be members shall immediately be transmitted  
22 by the Association of Washington Tribes to the legislature. An ad hoc  
23 member may be designated by the Governor to be a representative of the  
24 Governor and the executive branch; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall be cochaired by a  
26 legislative member and a tribal member. The members of the legislature  
27 appointed to the committee shall select their cochair and the tribal  
28 members of the committee shall select their cochair, the expenses of  
29 the committee shall be paid by the legislature under chapter 44.04 RCW,  
30 staff support for the committee shall be provided by the senate  
31 committee services and house of representatives office of program  
32 research and the Northwest Indian applied research institute located at  
33 The Evergreen State College, and the committee may also call upon any  
34 of the state agencies and tribal governments to assist in research and  
35 provide information; and

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall present its report  
37 and recommendations to the legislature not later than December 1, 2001;  
38 and

1        BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall terminate on  
2 December 15, 2001.

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