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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4406**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2005 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks (originally sponsored by Representatives Williams, Buck, Moeller, Hinkle, B. Sullivan, Linville and Takko)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/05.

1       WHEREAS, The legislature recognizes the critical importance of  
2 providing and securing sufficient water and watershed health to meet  
3 the needs of people, farms, and fish; and

4       WHEREAS, The legislature finds that an effective way to meet the  
5 water needs of people, farms, and fish is through strategies developed  
6 and implemented at the local watershed level; and

7       WHEREAS, Long-term sustainable and economically productive  
8 watersheds are necessary for the well-being of the citizens of the  
9 state of Washington; and

10       WHEREAS, In times of decreasing revenues and increasing demands, it  
11 is critically important to ensure the efficient and effective use of  
12 scarce financial resources by avoiding overlap and duplication of  
13 effort among watershed-based planning and implementation efforts; and

14       WHEREAS, Thirty-seven local watershed planning areas, twenty-six  
15 lead entity salmon groups, fourteen regional fisheries enhancement  
16 groups, and five regional salmon recovery entities have been  
17 successfully implementing projects and developing plans to improve  
18 watershed health, recover salmon populations, and provide sufficient  
19 water for residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural needs  
20 and productive fish populations; and

1           WHEREAS, Local salmon recovery groups have established an efficient  
2 process for developing and prioritizing local salmon recovery projects  
3 that are submitted to the salmon recovery funding board for funding  
4 consideration; and

5           WHEREAS, Implementation of watershed plans and salmon recovery  
6 plans must be coordinated with existing watershed projects, monitoring,  
7 and other activities in a manner ensuring attainment of the state's  
8 goals for watershed management as outlined in chapter 90.82 RCW and for  
9 salmon recovery as outlined in chapter 77.85 RCW;

10          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of  
11 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That the joint select  
12 legislative task force on watershed management and salmon recovery is  
13 established to evaluate and make recommendations to the legislature  
14 regarding the implementation of watershed management and salmon  
15 recovery plans; and

16          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the evaluation and recommendations of  
17 the joint select legislative task force include:

18           (1) A review of the current status of local watershed and salmon  
19 recovery plans and projects;

20           (2) A review of the current sources and uses of funding for  
21 administration, planning, and project implementation;

22           (3) A review of the organizational structure and governance of the  
23 regional recovery organizations and watershed level entities currently  
24 preparing or implementing plans and projects;

25           (4) The development of recommendations for any changes, if  
26 necessary, to current governance and organizational structures to  
27 ensure efficient use of resources in attaining the state's goals for  
28 watershed management as outlined in chapter 90.82 RCW and for salmon  
29 recovery as outlined in chapter 77.85 RCW;

30           (5) The development of recommendations for new or existing sources  
31 of funding for ongoing administration, projects, plan implementation,  
32 and monitoring; and

33           (6) The development of recommendations for improving the allocation  
34 of mitigation funding on a watershed basis, consistent with the state's  
35 policies and programs of optimizing mitigation projects; and

36          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select legislative task  
37 force consists of the chair and ranking minority member of the house of  
38 representatives economic development, agriculture, and trade committee;

1 the chair and ranking minority member of the house of representatives  
2 natural resources, ecology, and parks committee; the chair and ranking  
3 minority member of the house of representatives capital budget  
4 committee; the chair and ranking minority member of the senate water,  
5 energy, and environment committee; the chair and ranking minority  
6 member of the senate natural resources, ocean, and recreation  
7 committee; and the chair and ranking minority member of the senate ways  
8 and means committee; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force gather information that  
10 the task force considers appropriate for the evaluation of the next  
11 steps needed to successfully implement actions identified in watershed  
12 and salmon recovery plans; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an advisory committee be established  
14 to provide assistance to the task force, upon request of the task  
15 force, that is limited to the specific scope and content requested by  
16 the task force; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the advisory committee be composed of  
18 the following members or their designees: The director of the  
19 department of ecology; the director of the department of fish and  
20 wildlife; the chair of the salmon recovery funding board; a  
21 representative from the office of the governor; a representative from  
22 a watershed planning group; a representative from a lead entity; a  
23 representative from a regional salmon recovery group; a representative  
24 of the regional fisheries enhancement groups; a representative from the  
25 federal fisheries service; a representative from federally recognized  
26 Indian tribes; a representative of counties; a representative of  
27 cities; a representative of water purveyors; and a representative of  
28 agriculture; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the advisory committee shall select a  
30 chair from among its members for the purpose of conducting meetings and  
31 transmitting information from the advisory committee as a group to the  
32 joint select legislative task force; and

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in developing its recommendations, the  
34 joint select legislative task force may consult with the advisory  
35 committee; and

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select legislative task  
37 force and the advisory committee shall use legislative facilities, and

1 staff support shall be provided by senate committee services and the  
2 house of representatives office of program research; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force may invite staff from  
4 the department of ecology, the office of the interagency committee for  
5 outdoor recreation, and the department of fish and wildlife to provide  
6 additional staff support for the joint select legislative task force  
7 and the advisory committee; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That legislative members of the task force  
9 shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW  
10 44.04.120. Nonlegislative members, except those representing an  
11 employer or organization, are entitled to be reimbursed for travel  
12 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select legislative task  
14 force be established by June 1, 2005, report its evaluations and  
15 recommendations to the appropriate legislative committees by December  
16 31, 2005, and expire January 1, 2006.

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