

HCR 4400 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on State Government

NOT ADOPTED 01/19/2018

1 Beginning on page 1, line 1, strike all material through page 2,
2 line 33 and insert the following:

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

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Representative Sommers' service spanned seven governors,
18 nine speakers, and countless legislators; and

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, Representative Sommers brought a University of
31 Washington arborist to Olympia to identify and photograph the many
32 beautiful and unique trees on the Capitol Campus and then had a

1 booklet printed to provide a self-guided tour of twenty of the most
2 interesting trees; and

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

7 WHEREAS, The Legislature is authorized to approve names for
8 certain state facilities based on recommendations from the State
9 Capitol Committee and the Department of Enterprise Services, with the
10 advice of the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee and subject to
11 specific criteria; and

12 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature wishes to honor
13 Representative Sommers with a lasting memorial to her dedication and
14 service in the Legislature;

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

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Enterprise
20 Services place the name "Helen Sommers Building" on the new office
21 building; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
23 forwarded to Helen Sommers; the Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor of the
24 State of Washington; and Chris Liu, Director of the Department of
25 Enterprise Services."

EFFECT: Requires that the Department of Enterprise Services place
the name "Helen Sommers Building" on the new office building rather
than the name "The Helen Sommers Building."

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