
HOUSE BILL 1977

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Abbarno, Low, Reed, and Doglio

Prefiled 12/19/23. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to designating Tenino sandstone as the state
2 rock; adding a new section to chapter 1.20 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Tenino quarry
6 sandstone has both historic and contemporary significance for the
7 state of Washington. Prospectors discovered sandstone in Tenino,
8 Washington in 1870. In 1889, Samuel W. Fenton and George Van Tine
9 opened Tenino's first sandstone quarry. The 1889 historic fire in
10 Seattle created the opportunity for Tenino sandstone to be used on a
11 more regular basis for construction of buildings throughout the
12 Pacific Northwest. By the early 1900's, Tenino was the region's most
13 important source of the versatile stone. Tenino sandstone is included
14 in the east wing of the Washington state capitol, the original main
15 branch of the Seattle public library, the Bailey building in Seattle,
16 the Northern Pacific Railway station in Missoula, Montana, the
17 Calvary Presbyterian church in San Francisco, California, and the
18 main high school in Stockton, California. Tenino sandstone is a
19 structural component of the Philadelphia Freedom Monument and
20 represents Washington state in the Washington Monument in Washington
21 D.C. The Tenino quarry is still active today.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 1.20 RCW
2 to read as follows:
3 Tenino sandstone is hereby designated as the official rock of the
4 state of Washington.

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