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**ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8409**

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**State of Washington**

**52nd Legislature**

**1991 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Metcalf and Owen.

Read first time April 18, 1991. Referred to Committee on Environment & Natural Resources.

1       WHEREAS, In 1987 the department of game became the department of  
2 wildlife; and

3       WHEREAS, Additional revenues from the general fund resulted in  
4 additional attention being placed on wildlife issues of interest to the  
5 general public, such as habitat and nongame species; and

6       WHEREAS, The funding of the department is inadequate to satisfy all  
7 constituents of the department, including consumptive and  
8 nonconsumptive users of the wildlife resource; and

9       WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the people and wildlife of  
10 the state of Washington to add to and broaden the department of  
11 wildlife's funding base to allow all sectors of the public to  
12 contribute to wildlife and to allow the department to provide enhanced  
13 hunting and fishing seasons, adequate enforcement, and adequate  
14 wildlife habitat protection;

15       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of  
16 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a joint

1 select committee on the department of wildlife be established to review  
2 the following:

3 (1) An examination of sources of funding, and an evaluation of how  
4 funds from each funding source are used within each division or within  
5 each program of the department of wildlife, with particular attention  
6 to how funding sources and programs are separated into traditional  
7 game-related programs such as hunting and fishing and programs of  
8 general public benefit;

9 (2) An examination of funding for information and education  
10 programs;

11 (3) An evaluation of whether funding for the department is adequate  
12 to conduct needed programs, as determined by the department;

13 (4) An evaluation of the organization and structure of the  
14 department;

15 (5) An evaluation of how public input is used by the department to  
16 shape management policies and procedures;

17 (6) An evaluation and cost-benefit analysis of the feasibility of  
18 combining the departments of wildlife and fisheries into one cabinet-  
19 level department; and

20 (7) A determination of whether research and surveys conducted by  
21 the department are adequate to conduct sound wildlife management; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee consist of twelve  
23 members selected as follows: Four shall be members of the Senate  
24 Environment and Natural Resources Committee, two from each of the two  
25 largest political caucuses, selected by the President of the Senate;  
26 four shall be members of the House of Representatives Fisheries and  
27 Wildlife Committee, two from each of the two largest political  
28 caucuses, selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; two  
29 from the Senate Ways and Means Committee, one from each of the two  
30 largest political caucuses, selected by the President of the Senate;

1 and two from the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee,  
2 Revenue Committee, or Capital Facilities and Finance Committee, one  
3 from each of the two largest political caucuses, selected by the  
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee shall use  
6 legislative staff and facilities, but may hire additional staff with  
7 specific technical expertise if such expertise is necessary to carry  
8 out the mandates of this resolution. All expenses of the committee,  
9 including travel, shall be paid jointly by the Senate and the House of  
10 Representatives. All expenses and hiring of additional staff shall be  
11 subject to the approval of the Senate Facilities and Operations  
12 Committee and the House of Representatives Executive Rules Committee as  
13 required by Joint Rule 26; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee shall  
15 report its findings and recommendations regarding needed changes in the  
16 responsibilities, mandates, organization, management, and funding of  
17 the department of wildlife to the legislature by December 1, 1992; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall terminate July 1,  
19 1993.