SB 5609 - S AMD TO S AMD (S-5338.1/26) **737**
By Senator Cortes

NOT CONSIDERED 03/12/2026

Beginning on page 1, line 3, strike all of sections 1 through 5 and insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A task force to assess archaeological and cultural resource protection and to make recommendations to the legislature regarding state policies to protect archaeological and cultural resources is established.

(a) Membership of the task force shall be appointed by the governor and must consist of:

(i) Representatives of federally recognized Indian tribes;

(ii) A representative of the department of archaeology and historic preservation;

(iii) Local government representatives;

(iv) A representative of the department of ecology;

(v) A representative of the department of commerce;

(vi) A representative of the development of market-rate housing;

(vii) A representative of the development of affordable housing;

(viii) A representative of a state association representing cities; and

(ix) A representative of a state association representing counties.

(b)(i) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

(ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives.

(c) The governor may appoint additional members as deemed necessary by the office of the governor.

(2) The office of the governor must administer and provide staff support for the task force. The office of the governor may, when deemed necessary by the task force, retain consultants to provide data analysis, research, recommendations, training, and other services to the task force.

(3) The task force shall review existing archaeological and cultural resource protections as they exist:

(a) Under state law, including tribal participation in planning activities under RCW 36.70A.040 and historic and cultural protection activities under RCW 90.58.100;

(b) Administrative rules, including cultural resource protection under chapter 43.21C RCW; and

(c) Protections that have been adopted by local governments.

(4) The review must examine the scope and contents of current protections and identify any gaps.

(5) The task force shall submit findings and recommendations to the legislature pursuant to RCW 43.01.036 by December 1, 2028.

(6) This section expires December 1, 2029."

On page 10, beginning on line 25, after "insert" strike all material through "section" on line 26 and insert "creating a new section; and providing an expiration date"

EFFECT: Strikes the underlying bill and establishes a task force on cultural resource protection.

--- END ---