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HOUSE BILL 2117

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Stearns, Nance, Leavitt, Parshley, Ryu, Ramel, Doglio, Simmons, Peterson, Santos, Zahn, Cortes, Wylie, Duerr, Scott, Thomas, Ormsby, Berg, Callan, Fosse, Bergquist, Salahuddin, Hill, Davis, Pollet, Donaghy, Bernbaum, and Timmons; by request of Department of Natural Resources

Prefiled 12/08/25. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to adding a tribal member to the board of natural  
2 resources; amending RCW 43.30.205; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that inclusion of a  
5 tribal member on the board of natural resources will provide crucial  
6 perspective and expertise that will be invaluable as it makes  
7 decisions that serve the public.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.30.205 and 2025 c 94 s 1 are each amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 (1) The board shall consist of (~~six~~) seven members:

11 (a) The governor or the governor's designee;

12 (b) The superintendent of public instruction or the  
13 superintendent's designee from the office of the superintendent of  
14 public instruction;

15 (c) The commissioner;

16 (d) The director of the University of Washington school of forest  
17 resources;

18 (e) The dean of the Washington State University college of  
19 agricultural, human, and natural resource sciences; (~~and~~)

1 (f) A representative of those counties that contain state  
2 forestlands acquired or transferred under RCW 79.22.010, 79.22.040,  
3 and 79.22.020; and

4 (g) A tribal representative.

5 (2) (a) The county representative on the board shall be selected  
6 by the legislative authorities of those counties that contain state  
7 forestlands acquired or transferred under RCW 79.22.010, 79.22.040,  
8 and 79.22.020. In the selection of the county representative, each  
9 participating county shall have one vote. The Washington state  
10 association of counties shall convene a meeting for the purpose of  
11 making the selection and shall notify the board of the selection.

12 (b) The county representative must be a duly elected member of a  
13 county legislative authority who shall serve a term of four years  
14 unless the representative should leave office for any reason. The  
15 initial term shall begin on July 1, 1986.

16 (3) (a) The tribal representative shall be appointed by the  
17 governor and must be a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe  
18 who shall serve a term of four years unless the representative should  
19 leave office for any reason. The initial term shall begin on July 1,  
20 2026.

21 (b) When appointing a tribal representative, the governor shall  
22 solicit and consider nominees from each of the federally recognized  
23 tribes in Washington state. The governor shall collaborate with  
24 federally recognized tribes on the selection of the tribal  
25 representative.

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