

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SCR 8402

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Labor, Commerce & Trade, February 22, 1995

**Brief Description:** Entering Washington state into a sister state relationship with Taiwan.

**Sponsors:** Senators Wojahn, Sellar, Snyder, Newhouse, Gaspard, Fairley, Swecker, Deccio, Palmer, Drew, McDonald, Oke, Sutherland, Winsley and Rasmussen.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Labor, Commerce & Trade: 1/30/95, 2/22/95 [DPS].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & TRADE

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8402 be substituted therefor, and the substitute concurrent resolution do pass.

Signed by Senators Pelz, Chair; Heavey, Vice Chair; Deccio, Franklin, Fraser, Hale, Palmer and Wojahn.

**Staff:** Jack Brummel (786-7428)

**Background:** In 1993, there was more than \$7.5 billion in trade between the state of Washington and Taiwan. Washington has established a trade office in Taipei, and has engaged in numerous exchanges with Taiwan in the fine arts and recreation.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** Washington agrees to enter into a sister-state relationship with Taiwan.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The substitute removes the words "Republic of China" and adds language that establishes committees to sustain and enhance cooperation between the two states.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 27, 1995.

**Testimony For:** Taiwan is an excellent trading partner. 39 states have sister state relations with Taiwan.

**Testimony Against:** The "Republic of China" nomenclature should be removed. Should the Legislature designate who sister states are without some established criteria for selection?

**Testified:** Senator Wojahn (pro); Robert Chen, Taipei Economic Office (pro); Ruby Chow (pro); Gary Grant (pro); Paul Barden (pro); Ralph Munro, Secretary of State (con); Brent Heinaman, State Office of International Relations and Protocol (con).