The first quirky laws we will examine originate from Skamania and Whatcom Counties. In 1969, Skamania County decided to make it a felony to harm the creature "commonly known as a "Sasquatch", "Yeti", "Bigfoot", or "Giant Hairy Ape" to protect both Skamania County residents and visitors.[1] This ordinance created penalties for anyone who killed said creature with a fine of up to $10,000 and/or up to five years in jail.[2] Interestingly, this ordinance was adopted on April 1, 1969, but does not appear to be a joke or prank.

Al Magnussen, then vice president of the Mount Baker Foothills Chamber of Commerce, requested the Whatcom County resolution.[3] The resolution itself states that the council wanted to protect the creature from death or injury and declares Whatcom County a Sasquatch protection and refuge area.[4] According to the Whatcom County Council meeting minutes from June 11, 1991, Magnussen wanted to ban Sasquatch hunting because there was a concern for the safety of those dressing up as Sasquatch.[5] Interestingly, there was also a Bigfoot Festival the weekend after the Whatcom County resolution was passed.[6] The president of the Mount Baker Foothills Chamber of Commerce, Diana Perrault, was worried about the people who might unscrupulously hunt the Sasquatch during the Bigfoot Festival for a trophy.[7] While there may be some need to protect Sasquatches and citizens in both counties, there may have been another motive in the Whatcom County resolution of creating a buzz about the Bigfoot Festival, or as a way to protect the event leaders from being responsible for hunting accidents.

The first step in the legal research process is nailing down your research question. This is important because it will guide research and keep you on track as you find and read sources.

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[1] Skamania County Ordinance 1969-01
[2] Ibid
[3] Whatcom County Resolution 1992-043
[4] Ibid
[5] Whatcom County Council Meeting Minutes, June 11, 1992
[6] Susan Paynter, "KEEP SIGHTS OFF HAIRY BEASTS IN WHATCOM COUNTY." *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, June 17, 1991.
[7] Ibid

First, I started with a basic idea of wanting to find quirky laws in the states. After conducting a basic search and reading through some articles about nationwide quirky laws, I decided to narrow my search to the Pacific Northwest region. This resulted in finding a few articles that discussed the Skamania and Whatcom County Sasquatch laws. I decided to investigate further, which transformed my research question from "What quirky laws are there?" to "How did the Sasquatch laws in Skamania & Whatcom County come into being?"

My adventures in searching for how these laws were created led me through a series of searches to find the original documents. From the online articles, I found discussing both the Skamania and Whatcom County laws, I was able to find some of the people involved in creating the laws and the resolution numbers for the laws. This information allowed me to then search the Skamania and Whatcom County websites for the original resolution documents. After reading through the original documents, I was able to find that Al Magnussen requested that the resolution be put on the agenda for the June Whatcom City Council meeting. Finally, using Al Magnussen's name, I was able to search for newspaper articles and other documents mentioning Magnussen. I was able to access the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and other newspapers through the Seattle Public Library online portal. I also wanted to see if the councils of both counties had discussed the resolutions. This led me to look for digital versions of the council meeting minutes. I was able to find the Whatcom County Council meeting minutes on the Whatcom County Council website, but not on the Skamania County website. This is more than likely because the Skamania County minutes are older and haven't been digitized.

Researching quirky laws is an intriguing journey through various sources that can reward us with a glimpse into the thoughts of people from the past. As you can see, it's not always an

easy journey conducting legal research, but with a curious mind and knowing where to find resources, you can be successful in your searching.