

HB 2007 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Ways & Means

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** FINDINGS AND INTENT. On August 26, 1920,  
4 with the action of the Tennessee legislature, the Nineteenth  
5 Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified,  
6 establishing the right to vote for most American women. However, this  
7 right for some women occurred later: Native Americans generally by  
8 1924; many Asians during the mid twentieth century; and many others  
9 following enactment of voting rights legislation during the 1960's.

10 The introduction, passage, and ratification of the Nineteenth  
11 Amendment were the result of decades of work and struggle by women's  
12 voting rights advocates, throughout the United States, with people  
13 from Washington state providing significant leadership.

14 In 1854, six years after the landmark women's rights convention  
15 in Seneca Falls, New York, the Washington territorial legislature  
16 initially considered enacting women's right to vote. Susan B. Anthony  
17 visited Washington Territory in 1871, and addressed the Washington  
18 Territorial Legislature, the first woman in the country to address a  
19 state legislative body in session. This spurred the creation of many  
20 women's right to vote associations in Washington and in other states.

21 State women's right to vote legislation eventually passed the  
22 Washington Territorial Legislature twice, but each time was found  
23 unconstitutional by the Territorial Supreme Court. With the 1910  
24 approval of a state constitutional amendment by the male voters of  
25 the state, Washington became the first state in the twentieth  
26 century, and the fifth state overall, to enact women's right to vote  
27 at the state level.

28 In 2009, the state of Washington posthumously awarded its highest  
29 honor, the medal of merit, to the two key leaders of the Washington  
30 women's right to vote movement, Emma Smith DeVoe and Mae Arkwright  
31 Hutton.

1 The path to women's suffrage was blazed by western states.  
2 Washington's action (1910) followed Wyoming (1890), Colorado (1893),  
3 Utah (1870), and Idaho (1896). These successes were immediately  
4 followed by California (1911) and Oregon (1912), in establishing  
5 women's right to vote.

6 Washington was a major leader in the movement for nationwide  
7 women's right to vote. Washington was the first state in the  
8 twentieth century to fully enfranchise women, and inspired the  
9 nationwide campaign that soon brought success in many western states  
10 and the territory of Alaska, culminating in the Nineteenth Amendment  
11 to the United States Constitution providing for American women  
12 throughout the country to vote.

13 In 2010, the Washington women's history consortium provided  
14 leadership for statewide commemoration of the centennial of  
15 Washington state women's right to vote, sponsoring and coordinating a  
16 wide range of statewide activities.

17 The centennial of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the  
18 United States Constitution, in 2020, offers still greater  
19 opportunities for Washingtonians to commemorate and educate  
20 themselves and future generations about the importance of voting and  
21 civic engagement. Washingtonians and the many visitors to Washington  
22 will benefit from learning about and becoming inspired by the  
23 historic efforts of the women's right to vote movement in Washington  
24 and throughout the nation, and the subsequent impacts on life in  
25 Washington and the United States.

26 Therefore, the legislature finds it beneficial to begin the  
27 process of preparing for statewide commemoration from 2017 through  
28 2020, of the centennial of the processes of congressional passage of  
29 and states' legislative ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to  
30 the United States Constitution, which established the right to vote  
31 for American women.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** DUTIES OF CONSORTIUM. Subject to the  
33 availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the  
34 Washington women's history consortium shall:

35 (1) Provide leadership for statewide commemoration from 2017  
36 through 2020 of the centennial pertaining to the passage by congress  
37 of the Nineteenth Amendment and its subsequent ratification by three-  
38 fourths of the state legislatures in August 1920;

1 (2) Immediately begin preparations for this statewide  
2 commemoration, to include but not be limited to:

3 (a) Consulting with a wide variety of organizations,  
4 institutions, public agencies, educational agencies and institutions,  
5 tourism organizations, and the general public about the content and  
6 conduct of this statewide commemoration;

7 (b) Developing and encouraging others to develop a broad range of  
8 widely available educational opportunities for Washingtonians  
9 generally, students, and visitors, including significant online  
10 educational resources, to:

11 (i) Learn about the importance of voting in the context of women  
12 gaining the right to vote;

13 (ii) Consider the subsequent long-term impacts of women gaining  
14 the right to vote;

15 (iii) Learn about the active leadership role of Washingtonians in  
16 achieving the nationwide right to vote for women;

17 (iv) Honor the countless participants in the women's suffrage  
18 movement; and

19 (v) Inspire future generations to treasure their right to vote;

20 (c) Planning, coordinating, and publicizing events and  
21 informational materials for Washingtonians and visitors throughout  
22 the state commemorating this centennial;

23 (3) Create and distribute a portfolio of public humanities  
24 programs, and encourage others to also do this, to engage  
25 Washingtonians and visitors with important aspects of the women's  
26 right to vote movement;

27 (4) Encourage private organizations, schools, institutions of  
28 higher education, public agencies, and local governments to organize  
29 and participate in activities commemorating the centennial of the  
30 Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution;

31 (5) Coordinate with the regional and national organizations and  
32 agencies with respect to their commemorative work;

33 (6) Coordinate with the "national collaborative for women's  
34 history sites" by contributing a Washington component to the  
35 development of a nationwide "votes for women" trail; and

36 (7) Administer a grant program for public agencies, educational  
37 institutions, and organizations exempt from taxation under Title 26  
38 Sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code to assist with  
39 their commemoration activities.



1        On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "suffrage;" strike the  
2 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new chapter to Title 27  
3 RCW; and providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: Makes the following changes to the underlying bill:

Provides clarification and technical corrections to the intent section and throughout the bill.

Allows the consortium to appoint task forces and advisory committees.

Allows the consortium to enter into agreements and contracts.

Requires the consortium consult with educational agencies and institutions and tourism organizations in addition to public agencies, the general public and other organizations and institutions.

Clarifies that educational opportunities be provided to Washingtonians generally, students and visitors and include significant online educational resources.

Requires the consortium honor the countless participants in the women's suffrage movement and inspire future generations to treasure their right to vote.

The Washington women's history consortium's activities to commemorate the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment is made subject to appropriation.

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