

SCR 8414 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations

ADOPTED 02/27/2024

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

3 "WHEREAS, There are increasing concerns about the state of civic  
4 health in America and Washington state; and

5 WHEREAS, A recent public opinion survey in Washington state  
6 revealed that 89% of citizens agree or strongly agree that they are  
7 "worried about the future of our democracy"; and

8 WHEREAS, The same survey also revealed that nearly one in four  
9 Washingtonians have "stopped talking to a friend or relative because  
10 of politics"; and

11 WHEREAS, Additional research underscores a decline in respectful  
12 discourse in the public square and a material decline in confidence  
13 in public institutions; and

14 WHEREAS, In response to this crisis there has been a surge in  
15 local and national organizations designed to improve civic health;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, One of these organizations is the Project for Civic  
18 Health, a partnership of the Office of Lieutenant Governor, the  
19 University of Washington's Evans School, the Ruckelshaus Center, and  
20 the Henry M. Jackson Foundation; and

21 WHEREAS, The Project for Civic Health has worked for the last  
22 year to develop a deeper understanding of the nature of the problem  
23 by conducting focus groups and holding a "summit" involving nearly  
24 200 diverse Washington citizens to develop recommendations on a path  
25 forward; and

26 WHEREAS, Among the many ideas generated by the Project for Civic  
27 Health was the creation of a Joint Committee on Civic Health of the  
28 Washington State Legislature, the purpose of which would be to build  
29 upon the Project's work to date to strengthen our democratic  
30 republic;

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate, the House of  
32 Representatives concurring, That a joint select committee on Civic

1 Health be established to build upon the work of the Project for Civic  
2 Health; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Committee consist of 13 members:  
4 The Lieutenant Governor; three members of the majority party of the  
5 Senate and three members of the minority party of the Senate, to be  
6 selected by the President of the Senate; and three members of the  
7 majority party of the House of Representatives and three members of  
8 the minority party of the House of Representatives, to be selected by  
9 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Lieutenant Governor shall be  
11 chair of the committee and one member of the majority party and one  
12 member from the minority party from opposite chambers shall serve as  
13 Vice Chairs; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall operate in full  
15 accordance with the Joint Rules; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, All expenses and staff support for the  
17 committee shall be provided by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor,  
18 except that legislative members of the committee shall be reimbursed  
19 for travel expenses by the Senate and House of Representatives in  
20 accordance with RCW 44.04.120; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee will issue its  
22 preliminary recommendations and report to the legislature prior to  
23 the 2025 regular session and its final recommendations and report  
24 prior to 2026 regular session at which time the committee shall cease  
25 to exist."

EFFECT: Requires that expenses and staff support be provided by  
the Office of the Lieutenant Governor rather than being subject to  
the approval of the Senate and House of Representatives, except that  
legislative members must be reimbursed for travel expenses in  
accordance with current law.

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