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**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8414**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Lovick and Torres; by request of Lieutenant Governor

Prefiled 01/05/24.

1       WHEREAS, There are increasing concerns about the state of civic  
2 health in America and Washington state; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

1       WHEREAS, Among the many ideas generated by the Project for Civic  
2 Health was the creation of a Joint Committee on Civic Health of the  
3 Washington State Legislature, the purpose of which would be to build  
4 upon the Project's work to date to strengthen our democratic  
5 republic;

6       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate, the House of  
7 Representatives concurring, That a joint select committee on Civic  
8 Health be established to build upon the work of the Project for Civic  
9 Health; and

10       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Committee consist of 13 members:  
11 The Lieutenant Governor; three members of the majority party of the  
12 Senate and three members of the minority party of the Senate, to be  
13 selected by the President of the Senate; and three members of the  
14 majority party of the House of Representatives and three members of  
15 the minority party of the House of Representatives, to be selected by  
16 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

17       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Lieutenant Governor shall be  
18 chair of the committee and one member of the majority party and one  
19 member from the minority party from opposite chambers shall serve as  
20 Vice Chairs; and

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

23       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, All expenses and hiring of additional  
24 staff shall be subject to the approval of the House of  
25 Representatives Executive Rules Committee and the Senate Facilities  
26 and Operations Committee; and

27       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee will issue its  
28 preliminary recommendations and report to the legislature prior to  
29 the 2025 regular session and its final recommendations and report  
30 prior to 2026 regular session at which time the committee shall cease  
31 to exist.

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