

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 20

Establishing the Select Committee on Electoral Reform.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 2025

Ms. PEREZ (for herself and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Establishing the Select Committee on Electoral Reform.

Whereas approval of Congress is unacceptably low, and this disapproval is in part caused by the structure of Congress and how it is elected;

Whereas Americans are increasingly turning to electoral reform to improve their experience of politics and elections, including by adopting proportional representation, ranked choice voting, open primaries, and various redistricting reform measures;

Whereas article I, section 4 of the Constitution of the United States gives Congress the power to enact laws governing the time, place, and manner of elections for Senators and Members of the House of Representatives;

Whereas the law commonly known as the Uniform Congressional District Act, passed in 1967, requires every State

to elect its delegation to the House of Representatives exclusively from single-member districts; and

Whereas the law commonly known as the Permanent Apportionment Act of 1929 established that the House of Representatives would permanently have 435 representatives, a departure from the earlier practice of adding members after each census to reflect the Nation's growing population: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT.**

3 There is hereby established the Select Committee on
4 Electoral Reform (hereafter referred to as the "Select
5 Committee").

6 **SEC. 2. COMPOSITION.**

7 (a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—The Speaker shall
8 appoint 14 Members to the Select Committee, 7 of whom
9 shall be appointed after consultation with the minority
10 leader.

11 (b) DESIGNATION OF CO-CHAIRS.—The Speaker
12 shall designate one Member to serve as co-chair of the Se-
13 lect Committee. The minority leader shall designate one
14 member to serve as co-chair of the Select Committee.

15 (c) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Select Com-
16 mittee shall be filled in the same manner as the original
17 appointment.

1 **SEC. 3. DUTIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The duties of the Select Com-
3 mittee are the following:

4 (1) To examine the current methods by which
5 citizens of the United States elect Members of Con-
6 gress.

7 (2) To examine alternatives to these methods to
8 determine how such alternatives would affect the re-
9 sponsiveness, accountability, and functionality of
10 Congress, including—

11 (A) adopting multi-member congressional
12 districts with proportional representation;

13 (B) adjusting the number of Members of
14 the House of Representatives;

15 (C) adopting alternative methods of voting,
16 such as ranked-choice voting and cumulative
17 voting, as well as changes to ballot design such
18 as fusion voting, in which parties may nominate
19 candidates also nominated by another party;

20 (D) holding open and nonpartisan pri-
21 maries; and

22 (E) establishing independent congressional
23 redistricting commissions.

24 (3) To conduct hearings to take testimony and
25 receive evidence from witnesses selected for their rel-
26 evant expertise, including—

1 (A) political scientists;

2 (B) current and former Members of Con-
3 gress;

4 (C) officials from States and local govern-
5 ments that have previously adopted one or more
6 of the alternative methods to be examined by
7 the Select Committee; and

8 (D) officials from countries which cur-
9 rently use one or more of the alternative meth-
10 ods to be examined by the Select Committee.

11 (4) To examine Federal barriers to State ex-
12 perimentation with alternative electoral systems, in-
13 cluding the Act entitled “An Act for the relief of
14 Doctor Ricardo Vallejo Samala and to provide for
15 congressional redistricting”, approved December 14,
16 1967 (2 U.S.C. 2c), commonly known as the Uni-
17 form Congressional District Act, and its requirement
18 that States use single-member districts.

19 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the first
20 meeting of the Select Committee, the Select Committee
21 shall issue a final report to Congress and the President,
22 and shall include in the report such recommendations as
23 it considers appropriate.

1 **SEC. 4. MEETINGS.**

2 (a) MEETINGS.—The Select Committee shall hold its
3 first meeting not later than 30 days after all of its mem-
4 bers have been appointed, and shall meet at the call of
5 the co-chairs or a majority of its members.

6 (b) QUORUM.—Twelve members of the Select Com-
7 mittee shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may
8 hold hearings.

9 **SEC. 5. RULES AND PROCEDURES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in
11 this section, the Select Committee shall have the authori-
12 ties and responsibilities of, and shall be subject to the
13 same limitations and restrictions as, a standing committee
14 of the House, and shall be deemed a committee of the
15 House for all purposes of law or rule.

16 (b) APPLICABILITY OF GENERAL RULES FOR STAND-
17 ING COMMITTEES.—Rules X and XI of the Rules of the
18 House of Representatives shall apply to the Select Com-
19 mittee except as follows:

20 (1) Service on the Select Committee shall not
21 count against the limitations in clause 5(b)(2) of
22 rule X.

23 (2) Clause 2(m)(1)(B) of rule XI, clause
24 2(m)(3) of rule XI, and section 3(r) of House Reso-
25 lution 5, One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, shall
26 not apply to the Select Committee, but the Select

1 Committee may recommend subpoenas and deposi-
2 tions and submit such recommendations to the rel-
3 evant standing committee.

4 (3) Clause 2(d) of rule X shall not apply to the
5 Select Committee.

6 (c) NO LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION.—The Select
7 Committee shall not have legislative jurisdiction and shall
8 have no authority to take legislative action on any bill or
9 resolution.

10 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

11 To enable the Select Committee to carry out the pur-
12 poses of this resolution—

13 (1) the Select Committee may use the services
14 of staff of the House; and

15 (2) the Select Committee shall be eligible for in-
16 terim funding pursuant to clause 7 of rule X of the
17 Rules of the House of Representatives.

18 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

19 The Select Committee shall terminate 30 days after
20 filing the final report under section 3.

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