

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to legislative apportionment and
3 congressional redistricting; creating s. 11.31, F.S.;
4 creating an independent commission on legislative
5 apportionment and congressional redistricting;
6 providing the purpose, duties, and membership of the
7 commission; requiring the Legislature to annually
8 appropriate funds to the commission for employing
9 professional staff and otherwise supporting the
10 commission; requiring the commission's office to be
11 located in Orange County; requiring the commission to
12 conduct public hearings and receive information from
13 residents of the state through specified means;
14 requiring the commission to transmit certain plans to
15 the Legislature for consideration; providing that
16 commission members and employees are subject to public
17 records, public meetings, and specified financial
18 disclosure requirements; prohibiting persons not
19 serving on or employed by the commission from
20 influencing or attempting to influence commission
21 members and employees other than through a specified
22 manner; providing criminal penalties; providing an
23 effective date.

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25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Section 11.31, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

11.31 Independent commission on legislative apportionment and congressional redistricting.-

(1) (a) To assist the Legislature in its decennial apportionment of the state into senatorial and representative districts and congressional redistricting, there is created an independent commission on legislative apportionment and congressional redistricting.

(b)1. The commission shall coordinate the state's decennial legislative apportionment and congressional redistricting activities, including, but not limited to, preparing and proposing reapportionment and redistricting plans, transmitting the proposed plans to the Legislature, and conducting public hearings on the proposed plans.

2. Commission members must be appointed before January 1 of the year following each decennial census and the first commission meeting must occur before March 1 of that year.

(2) (a) The commission shall consist of the following nine members, each of whom must be a registered elector of the state:

1. One member appointed by the President of the Senate.

2. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

3. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the

51 Senate.

52 4. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the

53 House of Representatives.

54 5. Five members appointed by the Governor:

55 a. One of whom must be a registered Republican, as

56 designated on his or her voter registration.

57 b. One of whom must be a registered Democrat, as

58 designated on his or her voter registration.

59 c. Three of whom must be registered with a minor political

60 party or have no party affiliation, as designated on their voter

61 registration.

62 (b)1. A member must have resided in this state for at

63 least 5 years before appointment to the commission.

64 2. A member must have registered with his or her political

65 party, or have no party affiliation, for at least 5 years before

66 appointment to the commission.

67 (c) A member may not hold an elected office during his or

68 her service on the commission.

69 (d) Members shall serve without compensation but shall be

70 reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses in accordance with

71 s. 112.061.

72 (3) The Legislature shall annually appropriate funds to

73 the commission for employing professional staff, procuring

74 office space and necessary equipment, and other expenses deemed

75 necessary for the staff to perform their duties. The

76 commission's office shall be located in Orange County.

77 (4) (a) The commission shall conduct public hearings as
78 part of its activities. The commission shall establish and
79 publish in the Florida Administrative Register a schedule of
80 hearings and hearing locations as soon as practicable after its
81 first meeting.

82 (b) The hearing process shall include hearings to receive
83 public input before the commission draws a redistricting or
84 reapportionment map. The commission shall also conduct hearings
85 following the drawing and display of draft redistricting and
86 reapportionment maps. The commission shall display the draft
87 maps to the public for comment in a timely manner to achieve the
88 widest public dissemination reasonably possible.

89 (c) As part of the hearing process, the commission shall
90 create and maintain a website through which residents of the
91 state may submit information. The commission shall also
92 implement procedures that allow residents to submit information
93 by regular mail, telephone, and facsimile.

94 (d) Plans developed and approved by the commission must be
95 transmitted to the Legislature before January 1 of the second
96 year following each decennial census to be considered by the
97 Legislature at its next regular session as required by s. 16,
98 Art. III of the State Constitution.

99 (5) In developing district boundaries, the commission
100 shall ensure that plans conform to ss. 20 and 21, Art. III of

101 the State Constitution.

102 (6) Commission members and employees are subject to the
103 provisions of chapter 119, relating to public records, and the
104 provisions of chapter 286, relating to public meetings, and
105 shall comply with the applicable financial disclosure
106 requirements of s. 112.3145.

107 (7) Except in the manner provided in subsection (4), it is
108 unlawful for a person not serving on or employed by the
109 commission to influence or attempt to influence a commission
110 member or employee to alter a plan in any way. A person who
111 violates this subsection commits a felony of the third degree,
112 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

113 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.