

1 AN ACT relating to redistricting.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 5 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *As used in Sections 1 to 4 of this Act:*

6 *(1) "Committee" means the Kentucky Committee on Legislative Redistricting created*
7 *in Section 2 of this Act;*

8 *(2) "Population" means the most recent United States Census data collected under*
9 *Pub. L. No. 94-171; and*

10 *(3) "Redistricting" means the drawing of boundary lines for legislative districts.*

11 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 5 IS CREATED TO
12 READ AS FOLLOWS:

13 *(1) The Kentucky Committee on Legislative Redistricting is hereby established. The*
14 *membership of the committee shall be composed of one (1) faculty member from*
15 *each of the public universities of the Commonwealth who shall be appointed by*
16 *the president of each public university of the Commonwealth. Each committee*
17 *member shall be:*

18 *(a) The chair of the geography department of the public university or another*
19 *member of the geography faculty who has expertise in Kentucky geography;*

20 *or*

21 *(b) A professor of law or political science, or a faculty member with expertise*
22 *and extensive knowledge and experience related to redistricting law or*
23 *demographic data, statistics, and characteristics regarding Kentucky's*
24 *population.*

25 *(2) Members of the committee shall be appointed no later than July 1, 2020, and*
26 *thereafter members shall be appointed or reappointed no later than July 1 every*
27 *ten (10) years thereafter. The president of each public university of the*

1 Commonwealth shall fill a vacancy that occurs from a prior appointment of a
2 member of the faculty from his or her university, including cases in which a
3 faculty member resigns from his or her position with the university at which he
4 or she was employed.

5 (3) The committee shall be attached to the Legislative Research Commission for
6 administrative and budgetary purposes.

7 (4) Members of the committee shall receive per diem compensation as determined by
8 the Legislative Research Commission.

9 (5) The committee shall have the authority to:

10 (a) Contract for such expert services as may be necessary to carry out its duties;

11 (b) Purchase equipment and computer software as may be necessary to carry
12 out its duties;

13 (c) Hold public hearings in any county in the Commonwealth to obtain
14 information relevant to redistricting;

15 (d) Hire administrative staff to assist in its duties; and

16 (e) Consult with staff of the Legislative Research Commission in implementing
17 its duties.

18 (6) The initial meeting of the committee shall take place at the State Capitol in
19 Frankfort no later than September 1, 2020, and during subsequent redistricting
20 cycles no later than September 1 every ten (10) years thereafter. At the initial
21 meeting, the members of the committee shall select from among the members a
22 chair who shall preside over meetings and direct the work of the committee. The
23 committee shall meet at least once each month until the submission of
24 redistricting plans to the Legislative Research Commission under Section 4 of
25 this Act.

26 (7) A majority of the committee shall be required in order to approve and submit
27 redistricting plans under Section 3 of this Act. A meeting of the committee shall

1 not be held without notice to all members of the committee.

2 (8) All records of the committee shall be considered open records in accordance with
 3 KRS 61.870 to 61.884, and all records and other information generated by the
 4 committee shall be made available to the public on the Web site established in
 5 KRS 7.505.

6 (9) All meetings of the committee shall be considered open meetings in accordance
 7 with KRS 61.805 to 61.850.

8 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 5 IS CREATED TO
 9 READ AS FOLLOWS:

10 (1) The duties of the committee shall include the development of plans for the
 11 redistricting of state legislative districts and United States congressional districts.

12 (2) The committee shall develop redistricting plans based on population and develop
 13 not less than one (1) plan for each of the following:

14 (a) State legislative districts composed of thirty-eight (38) senatorial districts
 15 and one hundred (100) representative districts; and

16 (b) United States congressional districts based on the number of representatives
 17 allocated to the Commonwealth.

18 (3) The standards for creating districts for the election of members of the General
 19 Assembly shall be in accordance with the Constitution of the United States of
 20 America, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, and other relevant federal
 21 law, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and other relevant
 22 state laws, and be consistent with the following principles:

23 (a) To form senatorial and representative districts with minimal percentages of
 24 deviation in population;

25 (b) To minimize variations from existing district lines insofar as it is feasible;

26 (c) To create districts that are as compact in size as feasible;

27 (d) To create districts composed of whole counties and communities insofar as

1 it is feasible, while recognizing that some counties and communities may of
2 necessity be divided to achieve the required equality in population;

3 (e) To recognize and consider patterns of geography, social interaction, trade,
4 political ties, and common interest among counties and communities of the
5 Commonwealth; and

6 (f) Other traditional redistricting principles.

7 (4) The standard for creating United States congressional districts shall be in
8 accordance with the Constitution of the United States of America, the Voting
9 Rights Act of 1965, as amended, and other relevant federal law, and be consistent
10 with the following principles:

11 (a) To form United States congressional districts with variation in population
12 so minimal as to comply with the principle of "one person, one vote";

13 (b) To minimize variations from existing district lines insofar as it is feasible;

14 (c) To create districts that are as compact in size as feasible;

15 (d) To create districts composed of whole counties and communities insofar as
16 it is feasible, while recognizing that some counties and communities may of
17 necessity be divided to achieve the required equality in population; and

18 (e) To recognize and consider patterns of geography, social interaction, trade,
19 political ties, and common interest among counties and communities of the
20 Commonwealth.

21 (5) The committee shall develop separate redistricting legislation for state legislative
22 districts and for United States congressional districts.

23 ➔SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 5 IS CREATED TO
24 READ AS FOLLOWS:

25 (1) On or before October 15, 2021, and thereafter no later than October 15 of each
26 year following the decennial census, the committee shall prepare not less than
27 one (1) plan based on population for the redistricting of each of the following:

- 1 (a) Not less than one (1) plan concerning state legislative districts, dividing the
2 Commonwealth into thirty-eight (38) senatorial districts and one hundred
3 (100) representative districts; and
- 4 (b) Not less than one (1) plan dividing the Commonwealth into the number of
5 United States congressional districts allocated to the Commonwealth.
- 6 (2) The committee shall present the redistricting plan as set forth in subsection (1) of
7 this section to the Legislative Research Commission no later than October 15,
8 2021, and thereafter no later than October 15 of each year following the
9 decennial census.
- 10 (3) The Legislative Research Commission shall refer the redistricting legislation to
11 the Interim Joint Committee on State Government for discussion at its October
12 and November meetings, and the Interim Joint Committee on State Government
13 may hold special meetings as deemed necessary. The Interim Joint Committee on
14 State Government may recommend enactment or rejection of the committee's
15 redistricting plan, but shall not recommend alteration or amendment to the
16 proposed legislation, except for proposed technical amendments which do not
17 alter or amend the substance of the plans.
- 18 (4) During the Regular Session of the General Assembly following the review of the
19 Interim Joint Committee on State Government, or during an Extraordinary
20 Session called by the Governor for the purposes of redistricting following the
21 review of the Interim Joint Committee on State Government, the General
22 Assembly shall consider the committee's redistricting plan for enactment into
23 law. The General Assembly may enact or reject the committee's redistricting plan,
24 but may not alter or amend the plan, except for technical amendments which do
25 not alter or amend the substance of the legislation.
- 26 (5) The Speaker of the House shall introduce in the House of Representatives and
27 the President of the Senate shall introduce in the Senate the redistricting

1 legislation on the first day of the Regular Session of the General Assembly or an
2 Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly following the committee's
3 submission of its redistricting plan. The Speaker of the House shall sponsor the
4 legislation in the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall
5 sponsor the legislation in the Senate. If the Speaker of the House or the President
6 of the Senate does not introduce redistricting legislation as submitted by the
7 committee, the legislation shall be introduced and sponsored by the minority floor
8 leader of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively. The
9 Committee on Committees of both the House of Representatives and the Senate
10 shall refer the redistricting legislation to the House Standing Committee on State
11 Government and the Senate Standing Committee on State and Local
12 Government, respectively.

13 (6) The General Assembly shall separately consider enactment or rejection of the
14 committee's redistricting plan legislation for state legislative districts and for
15 United States congressional districts.

16 (7) If the General Assembly does not enact the redistricting plan legislation of the
17 committee for state legislative districts or United States congressional districts by
18 the first Tuesday after the fifth Monday of the year following the committee's
19 submission of the plan to the Legislative Research Commission, the General
20 Assembly shall return the redistricting legislation to the committee and request
21 development of a new plan for the redistricting of state legislative districts or
22 United States congressional districts in accordance with Section 3 of this Act. The
23 General Assembly shall communicate to the committee its reasons for not
24 enacting redistricting legislation. The committee may incorporate changes
25 requested by the General Assembly in drafting any new redistricting plan, but
26 shall not be required to make the changes requested. The committee shall submit
27 a new redistricting plan within five (5) working days of receipt of

1 communications from the General Assembly. The committee shall submit the
2 redistricting plan to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the
3 President of the Senate, who shall forward the legislation to the Committee on
4 Committees of their respective chambers. The Committee on Committees in each
5 chamber shall refer the redistricting legislation only to the committees specified
6 in subsection (5) of this section. The committees specified in subsection (5) of this
7 section shall recommend enactment of the committee's redistricting plan
8 legislation as presented and shall not alter or amend the legislation, except for
9 technical amendments which do not alter or amend the substance of the
10 legislation. The General Assembly shall then enact the redistricting legislation as
11 presented and shall not alter or amend the legislation, except for technical
12 amendments which do not alter or amend the substance of the legislation.

13 (8) The filing deadline for the primary for the year following the committee's
14 submission of redistricting legislation to the Legislative Research Committee
15 shall be seven (7) calendar days following the enactment of redistricting
16 legislation by the General Assembly or the statutory deadline, whichever is later.