

HOUSE BILL 408

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By: **Delegates Hill, Krimm, Ebersole, Lam, Sample–Hughes, and Valentino–Smith**
Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2016
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission to Study Legislative and Congressional Districting**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission to Study Legislative and Congressional
4 Districting; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Commission;
5 prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain compensation, but
6 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Commission to
7 study and make recommendations regarding legislative and congressional
8 districting; requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to
9 the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Delegates,
10 and the chairs of certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain
11 date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the
12 Commission to Study Legislative and Congressional Districting.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That:

15 (a) There is a Commission to Study Legislative and Congressional Districting.

16 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate, one of whom the President of the Senate shall appoint as a cochair of the
19 Commission;

20 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
21 the House, one of whom the Speaker of the House shall appoint as a cochair of the
22 Commission;

23 (3) the Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;

24 (4) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) the State Administrator of Elections, or the State Administrator's
2 designee; and

3 (6) a representative of the Maryland League of Women Voters, appointed
4 by the Governor, from a list submitted by the Maryland League of Women Voters.

5 (c) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the
6 Commission.

7 (d) A member of the Commission:

8 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

9 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
10 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

11 (e) The Commission shall:

12 (1) study the State's legislative and congressional redistricting processes;
13 and

14 (2) make recommendations regarding:

15 (i) criteria that should be used to draw legislative and congressional
16 districts and how each criterion should be weighed;

17 (ii) the entity that should draw the legislative and congressional
18 district maps;

19 (iii) ways to make the legislative and congressional districting
20 processes nonpartisan; and

21 (iv) ways to partner with other states to make congressional
22 districting nonpartisan throughout the country.

23 (f) On or before December 31, 2016, the Commission shall report its findings and
24 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
25 Government Article, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Delegates,
26 the Chair of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, and the Chair
27 of the Committee on Ways and Means.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
29 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2017,
30 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
31 of no further force and effect.