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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 131 Session of  
2025

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INTRODUCED BY KEARNEY, COMITTA, SCHWANK, FONTANA, SAVAL,  
PENNYCUICK, CAPPELLETTI, COSTA, BARTOLOTTA, KIM, KANE,  
BOSCOLA, L. WILLIAMS, PISCIOTTANO AND MILLER, MARCH 26, 2025

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 26, 2025

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing integrated and distinct amendments to the Constitution  
2 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, repealing provisions  
3 relating to Legislative Reapportionment Commission and  
4 providing for Independent Redistricting Commission and for  
5 redistricting criteria.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby resolves as follows:

8 Section 1. The following integrated amendments to the  
9 Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with  
10 Article XI:

11 (1) That section 17 of Article II be repealed:

12 [§ 17. Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

13 (a) In each year following the year of the Federal decennial  
14 census, a Legislative Reapportionment Commission shall be  
15 constituted for the purpose of reapportioning the Commonwealth.  
16 The commission shall act by a majority of its entire membership.

17 (b) The commission shall consist of five members: four of  
18 whom shall be the majority and minority leaders of both the

1 Senate and the House of Representatives, or deputies appointed  
2 by each of them, and a chairman selected as hereinafter  
3 provided. No later than 60 days following the official reporting  
4 of the Federal decennial census as required by Federal law, the  
5 four members shall be certified by the President pro tempore of  
6 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to  
7 the elections officer of the Commonwealth who under law shall  
8 have supervision over elections.

9 The four members within 45 days after their certification  
10 shall select the fifth member, who shall serve as chairman of  
11 the commission, and shall immediately certify his name to such  
12 elections officer. The chairman shall be a citizen of the  
13 Commonwealth other than a local, State or Federal official  
14 holding an office to which compensation is attached.

15 If the four members fail to select the fifth member within  
16 the time prescribed, a majority of the entire membership of the  
17 Supreme Court within 30 days thereafter shall appoint the  
18 chairman as aforesaid and certify his appointment to such  
19 elections officer.

20 Any vacancy in the commission shall be filled within 15 days  
21 in the same manner in which such position was originally filled.

22 (c) No later than 90 days after either the commission has  
23 been duly certified or the population data for the Commonwealth  
24 as determined by the Federal decennial census are available,  
25 whichever is later in time, the commission shall file a  
26 preliminary reapportionment plan with such elections officer.

27 The commission shall have 30 days after filing the  
28 preliminary plan to make corrections in the plan.

29 Any person aggrieved by the preliminary plan shall have the  
30 same 30-day period to file exceptions with the commission in

1 which case the commission shall have 30 days after the date the  
2 exceptions were filed to prepare and file with such elections  
3 officer a revised reapportionment plan. If no exceptions are  
4 filed within 30 days, or if filed and acted upon, the  
5 commission's plan shall be final and have the force of law.

6 (d) Any aggrieved person may file an appeal from the final  
7 plan directly to the Supreme Court within 30 days after the  
8 filing thereof. If the appellant establishes that the final plan  
9 is contrary to law, the Supreme Court shall issue an order  
10 remanding the plan to the commission and directing the  
11 commission to reapportion the Commonwealth in a manner not  
12 inconsistent with such order.

13 (e) When the Supreme Court has finally decided an appeal or  
14 when the last day for filing an appeal has passed with no appeal  
15 taken, the reapportionment plan shall have the force of law and  
16 the districts therein provided shall be used thereafter in  
17 elections to the General Assembly until the next reapportionment  
18 as required under this section 17.

19 (f) Any district which does not include the residence from  
20 which a member of the Senate was elected whether or not  
21 scheduled for election at the next general election shall elect  
22 a Senator at such election.

23 (g) The General Assembly shall appropriate sufficient funds  
24 for the compensation and expenses of members and staff appointed  
25 by the commission, and other necessary expenses. The members of  
26 the commission shall be entitled to such compensation for their  
27 services as the General Assembly from time to time shall  
28 determine, but no part thereof shall be paid until a preliminary  
29 plan is filed. If a preliminary plan is filed but the commission  
30 fails to file a revised or final plan within the time

1 prescribed, the commission members shall forfeit all right to  
2 compensation not paid.

3 (h) If a preliminary, revised or final reapportionment plan  
4 is not filed by the commission within the time prescribed by  
5 this section, unless the time be extended by the Supreme Court  
6 for cause shown, the Supreme Court shall immediately proceed on  
7 its own motion to reapportion the Commonwealth.

8 (i) Any reapportionment plan filed by the commission, or  
9 ordered or prepared by the Supreme Court upon the failure of the  
10 commission to act, shall be published by the elections officer  
11 once in at least one newspaper of general circulation in each  
12 senatorial and representative district. The publication shall  
13 contain a map of the Commonwealth showing the complete  
14 reapportionment of the General Assembly by districts, and a map  
15 showing the reapportionment districts in the area normally  
16 served by the newspaper in which the publication is made. The  
17 publication shall also state the population of the senatorial  
18 and representative districts having the smallest and largest  
19 population and the percentage variation of such districts from  
20 the average population for senatorial and representative  
21 districts.]

22 (2) That Article II be amended by adding a section to read:  
23 § 18. Independent Redistricting Commission.

24 (a) In each year of the Federal decennial census, an  
25 Independent Redistricting Commission shall be constituted for  
26 the purpose of redistricting the Commonwealth. The commission  
27 shall adopt a redistricting plan for legislative and  
28 congressional districts on the basis of each Federal decennial  
29 census in accordance with this section and such laws as the  
30 General Assembly may enact to implement this section.

1 (b) The commission shall consist of 11 members, as follows:  
2 four voters who are registered with the largest political party  
3 in this Commonwealth based on registration; four voters who are  
4 registered with the second-largest political party in this  
5 Commonwealth based on registration; and three voters who are not  
6 registered with either of the two largest political parties in  
7 this Commonwealth based on registration, with no more than one  
8 from any specific minor party.

9 (c) Each commissioner shall be a voter who has:

10 (1) been continuously registered in Pennsylvania with the  
11 same political party or unaffiliated with one of the two largest  
12 political parties in the five years immediately preceding the  
13 date of his or her appointment; and

14 (2) voted in at least two of the last three statewide  
15 general elections immediately preceding the date of his or her  
16 appointment.

17 (d) No person shall be eligible for appointment who is or  
18 has been at any time in the past five years:

19 (1) A declared candidate for partisan Federal, State or  
20 local office.

21 (2) An elected or appointed official to Federal, State or  
22 local office, which shall not include local precinct election  
23 officials.

24 (3) An officer or member of the governing body of a  
25 national, State or local political party.

26 (4) A paid consultant or employee of a Federal, State or  
27 local elected official or political candidate of a Federal,  
28 State or local political candidate's campaign or of a political  
29 party, legislative caucus or action committee.

30 (5) A registered lobbyist.

1 (e) No person shall be eligible for appointment who is a  
2 parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling or spouse of any  
3 individual disqualified under subsection (d).

4 (f) For five years after the date of appointment, a  
5 commissioner shall be ineligible to hold elective office at the  
6 State, county or city level. For six years after the date of  
7 appointment, a commissioner shall be ineligible to hold or be a  
8 candidate for any elective office for which the districts are  
9 enacted by this commission.

10 (g) For five years after the date of appointment, a  
11 commissioner shall be ineligible to hold appointive Federal,  
12 State or local public office, to serve as paid staff for the  
13 General Assembly or any individual legislator or to register as  
14 a Federal, State or local lobbyist in this Commonwealth.

15 (h) The commission in whole shall reflect the Commonwealth's  
16 geographic and demographic diversity, including, but not limited  
17 to, racial, ethnic and gender diversity, to the greatest extent  
18 practicable.

19 (i) The secretary shall administer an application process  
20 for individuals seeking appointment to the commission as  
21 follows:

22 (1) The secretary shall design an application form which  
23 shall clearly state the legal obligations and expectations of  
24 potential commissioners.

25 (2) Beginning January 10 in each year ending in zero, the  
26 secretary shall provide public notice of the application  
27 process, commissioner qualifications and the selection process.  
28 The secretary shall provide this notice in the language of the  
29 applicable language minority group as well as in the English  
30 language. Notice shall be widely distributed in order to reach

1 as many potential applicants as is feasible, including, but not  
2 limited to, the following:

3 (i) On the homepage of all publicly accessible Internet  
4 websites of Commonwealth agency communications platforms.

5 (ii) In the 10 most prominent print or online media outlets  
6 in this Commonwealth and in at least one prominent print  
7 publication in every county as determined by circulation or  
8 online readership.

9 (iii) On local television stations during local news  
10 broadcasts in this Commonwealth.

11 (iv) In media outlets that serve specific racial and ethnic  
12 communities in this Commonwealth, with specific attention to  
13 underserved or underrepresented populations. The secretary shall  
14 provide such notice in the language or languages of applicable  
15 language minority groups within those underserved or  
16 underrepresented populations, in English, and as many additional  
17 languages as the secretary deems appropriate to fulfill the  
18 public notice requirement under this paragraph.

19 (v) Through community groups that work with underserved or  
20 underrepresented populations. The secretary shall provide such  
21 notice in the language or languages of applicable language  
22 minority groups within those underserved or underrepresented  
23 populations, in English, and as many additional languages as the  
24 secretary deems appropriate to fulfill the public notice  
25 requirement under this paragraph.

26 (3) Except as provided in paragraph (4), the secretary shall  
27 continue to accept applications until June 1 of each year ending  
28 in zero.

29 (4) If the following thresholds are not satisfied by June 1  
30 of each year ending in zero, the secretary shall conduct

1 targeted advertising to potential applicants in geographic and  
2 demographic groups that appear, as the secretary determines, to  
3 be missing from the existing pool in order to encourage the  
4 final applicant pool to reasonably reflect the racial,  
5 geographic and gender diversity of the Commonwealth, and  
6 continue to accept applications until the following is met,  
7 provided that the secretary shall not accept applications after  
8 August 1 of each year ending in zero:

9 (i) At least 80 eligible individuals who are registered with  
10 the largest political party in this Commonwealth have applied.

11 (ii) At least 80 eligible individuals who are registered  
12 with the second-largest political party in this Commonwealth  
13 have applied.

14 (iii) At least 80 eligible individuals who are not  
15 registered with the largest political party or second-largest  
16 political party in this Commonwealth have applied.

17 (5) An applicant must disclose, under the penalty of  
18 perjury, the following information pertaining to the five years  
19 before the submission of an application:

20 (i) Political party registration.

21 (ii) An explanation of why the applicant desires to serve on  
22 the commission.

23 (iii) Relevant leadership and community experiences.

24 (iv) All reportable political contributions to candidates  
25 for Federal, State or municipal office or to any committee  
26 supporting or opposing the election of candidates to Federal,  
27 State or municipal office.

28 (v) Contractual and other financial interests with the  
29 Commonwealth and with any other government-related entity.

30 (6) Applicants under paragraph (5) may include up to four



1 letters of recommendation with their application.

2 (7) The secretary shall determine the eligibility of  
3 applicants to serve on the commission. If the documentation  
4 submitted by an applicant is insufficient to determine whether  
5 the applicant is eligible, the applicant shall be notified of  
6 elements lacking and allowed seven days from the date of  
7 notification to cure the application. Following the cure  
8 deadline applicants determined or deemed to be ineligible shall  
9 be notified of the reasons why they will not be included in the  
10 final pool of applicants to be considered for appointment to the  
11 commission.

12 (8) Once ineligible applicants have been excluded, the  
13 secretary shall separate applications into three pools  
14 consisting of those who are:

15 (i) registered with the largest political party in this  
16 Commonwealth based on registration;

17 (ii) registered with the second-largest political party in  
18 this Commonwealth based on registration; and

19 (iii) not registered with either of the two largest  
20 political parties in this Commonwealth based on registration.

21 (j) Once separated, each applicant pool shall be narrowed by  
22 the State Ethics Commission to 60 applicants as reflective of  
23 the diversity of this Commonwealth as possible. In narrowing  
24 pools, the State Ethics Commission shall consider applicant  
25 submissions, letters of recommendation, relevant publicly  
26 available information and geographic, gender, racial and ethnic  
27 diversity.

28 (k) Once pools are narrowed, the State Ethics Commission  
29 shall provide the lists of applicants to the leaders of the  
30 General Assembly and post the lists on the publicly accessible

1 Internet websites of the State Ethics Commission and Department  
2 of State and the commission's publicly accessible communications  
3 platform. No later than September 1 of each year ending in zero,  
4 the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate and the  
5 Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the House of  
6 Representatives may each strike up to two applicants from each  
7 subpool. After the strikes, the State Ethics Commission shall  
8 post the revised lists in the same manners and in the same  
9 locations as the lists were previously posted under this  
10 subsection.

11 (1) Members of the commission shall be selected as follows:

12 (1) No later than September 15 of each year ending in zero,  
13 the secretary shall convene a public event, made available to  
14 public view through all appropriate technologies, for the random  
15 selection of the first six commissioners.

16 (2) Names shall be drawn at random by the secretary or  
17 designee in the following order: two from the largest party  
18 pool; two from the second-largest party pool; two from the  
19 unaffiliated or minor party pool. If a choice from the  
20 unaffiliated or minor party pool is a second from a specific  
21 minor party, that choice shall be set aside and another name  
22 drawn until at least one of the two from the unaffiliated or  
23 minority party pool is an unaffiliated voter.

24 (3) Following the public drawing of the first six  
25 candidates, the commission shall have 45 days to select an  
26 additional two candidates from the largest party pool, two  
27 candidates from the second-largest party pool, and one candidate  
28 from the unaffiliated or minor party pool that is not the same  
29 specific minor party as the first two candidates selected in  
30 paragraph (2) to further balance commission demographics to

1 reasonably reflect the racial, geographic and gender diversity  
2 of the Commonwealth and, if possible, add needed skills or  
3 experience that may be lacking in the randomly selected six  
4 commissioners. In order to ensure the additional candidates meet  
5 these objectives, the commission may request interviews and  
6 information from the additional candidates as necessary. Final  
7 selection of the additional candidates shall be made by an  
8 affirmative vote of no less than four of the first six  
9 candidates drawn under paragraph (2), including at least one  
10 commissioner from each of the pools. If the commission fails to  
11 fill a seat, selection shall be made under subsection (r).

12 (m) Before entering on the duties of the commission, the  
13 commissioners shall take and subscribe to the oath of office in  
14 accordance with the requirements of officers subject to section  
15 3 of Article VI.

16 (n) No later than December 1 of each year ending in zero,  
17 the commissioners shall select one of the commissioners to serve  
18 as chair and one of the commissioners to serve as vice chair.  
19 The chair and vice chair may not be registered with the same  
20 political party.

21 (o) Commissioners may not engage in any of the following  
22 political activities:

23 (1) Using the commissioners' official authority or influence  
24 for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of  
25 an election; or

26 (2) Taking an active part in a political campaign or in the  
27 management of a political campaign of a candidate for public  
28 office in an election or a candidate for political party office.

29 (p) Commissioners shall be compensated at the rate of \$300  
30 per day, plus reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in

1 connection with the duties performed pursuant to this section,  
2 for each day attending commission meetings or otherwise carrying  
3 out the responsibilities of the commission. The rate of  
4 compensation shall be adjusted annually for inflation.

5 (g) The commission may remove one of its members in the  
6 event of substantial neglect of duty, gross misconduct in office  
7 or inability to discharge the duties of office. Removal shall  
8 require seven affirmative votes from the other members, after  
9 the member has been served written notice and provided an  
10 opportunity to respond. Substantial neglect of duty includes  
11 repeated failure to attend voting meetings without reasons  
12 deemed excusable by the chair.

13 (r) A vacancy in the commission shall be filled within 14  
14 days from the time the commission is notified of the vacancy  
15 using the same pool of applicants from which the vacating member  
16 was chosen. The commission shall narrow the pool to demographics  
17 reasonably reflecting the commissioner to be replaced, and the  
18 secretary shall randomly select a new commissioner. If none of  
19 the applicants are available for service from that narrowed  
20 pool, the secretary shall fill the vacancy from those remaining  
21 within the same pool of applicants from which the vacating  
22 member was chosen.

23 (s) The secretary shall establish a publicly accessible  
24 communications platform for the commission. Once the  
25 commissioners have been appointed and a communications  
26 technology manager has been hired by the secretary, the  
27 commission shall assume responsibility for managing and updating  
28 the platform.

29 (t) The communications platform shall include, but not be  
30 limited to, all of the following information:

- 1 (1) A description of the role of the commission.
- 2 (2) Timely information about the application process.
- 3 (3) Prominently posted information about the time, place and  
4 purpose of commission meetings.
- 5 (4) Precinct-level shapefiles and census block equivalency  
6 files.
- 7 (5) Precinct-level results from statewide primary and  
8 general elections for the past 10 years.
- 9 (6) Legal description and shapefiles from previous  
10 redistricting cycles for all relevant maps.
- 11 (7) Links to free, publicly accessible software tools  
12 members of the public can use to create maps for submission and  
13 quantitatively evaluate all proposed maps.
- 14 (8) A portal for the submission of proposed congressional  
15 and legislative district maps.
- 16 (9) All congressional and legislative district maps or  
17 portions of maps drawn by the commission or submitted by the  
18 public.
- 19 (10) The underlying data used to create or evaluate maps in  
20 a format easily usable for analysis.
- 21 (11) A portal for submission and curation of comments and  
22 responses to any proposed maps or portions of maps.
- 23 (12) Means for members of the public to comment directly on  
24 specific submitted maps.
- 25 (13) A video archive of all meetings of the commission.
- 26 (14) Transcripts of all commission meetings.
- 27 (15) Reports providing analysis of all submitted maps using  
28 respected, readily available tools assessing required criteria.
- 29 (16) Minutes of the commission's public meetings.
- 30 (17) Any additional written materials referenced or used in

1 a public meeting of the commission for purposes of evaluating or  
2 creating maps.

3 (u) The commission shall post any data regarding  
4 congressional and legislative redistricting on the publicly  
5 accessible communications portal at the same time it is made  
6 available to the commission and the data shall be considered  
7 public record under applicable laws.

8 (v) The commission shall utilize population data for  
9 purposes of congressional and legislative redistricting that  
10 reflects incarcerated individuals at their last known residence  
11 if they were residents of this Commonwealth. All of the  
12 following shall apply:

13 (1) The population count used by the commission under this  
14 subsection shall:

15 (i) Not include individuals who were incarcerated or held in  
16 a facility, as determined by the Federal decennial census, and  
17 were not residents of this Commonwealth before their  
18 incarceration or placement in a facility.

19 (ii) Count individuals incarcerated or held in a facility,  
20 as determined by the Federal decennial census, at their last  
21 known residence before incarceration or placement in a facility  
22 if the individuals were residents of this Commonwealth.

23 (2) In each year immediately following the year in which the  
24 Federal decennial census is taken and in which the United States  
25 Census Bureau allocates incarcerated individuals as residents of  
26 the facility in which they are incarcerated, the Department of  
27 Corrections and the Department of Human Services shall furnish  
28 to the Legislative Data Processing Center all of the information  
29 necessary to implement this subsection no later than 15 days  
30 after the United States Census Bureau releases the PL-94-171

1 redistricting data for Pennsylvania.

2 (3) The information required under paragraph (2) shall  
3 include, but not be limited to:

4 (i) A unique identifier, not including the name of every  
5 individual incarcerated or held in a facility at the time of the  
6 Federal decennial census.

7 (ii) The last known address of an individual described under  
8 subparagraph (i) before incarceration or placement in a  
9 facility.

10 (iii) The census block of the facility in which an  
11 individual under subparagraph (i) was incarcerated or held.

12 (iv) The race, ethnicity and age of every individual  
13 incarcerated or held in a facility described under subparagraph  
14 (i), if known.

15 (v) Any additional information as the Legislative Data  
16 Processing Center may request pursuant to law.

17 (4) The Department of Corrections shall request from the  
18 Federal Bureau of Prisons the information listed under paragraph  
19 (2) for every individual held in a facility under the  
20 jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and located in  
21 this Commonwealth.

22 (5) The commission shall use the data provided under  
23 paragraphs (3) and (4) to adjust the PL-94-171 population data  
24 for Pennsylvania to ensure individuals incarcerated or held in a  
25 facility are counted at their last known residence with regards  
26 to redistricting if they were residents of this Commonwealth.

27 (w) Six members of the commission shall constitute a quorum,  
28 and actions by the commission shall be in a public meeting by  
29 the affirmative vote of no less than seven commissioners,  
30 including the following:

1 (1) At least two commissioners registered with the largest  
2 political party in this Commonwealth.

3 (2) At least two commissioners registered with the second-  
4 largest political party in this Commonwealth.

5 (3) At least two commissioners who are not registered with  
6 the largest political party or second-largest political party in  
7 this Commonwealth.

8 (x) No later than January 1 of each year ending in one, the  
9 secretary or designee shall convene a series of public meetings  
10 of the commission for the purposes of orientation and training,  
11 including, but not limited to, the following topics:

12 (1) 52 U.S.C. Ch. 103 (relating to enforcement of voting  
13 rights) and minority representation in Pennsylvania.

14 (2) Mapping tools and respected analysis of district plans.

15 (3) Understanding redistricting criteria.

16 (4) Review of effective redistricting processes in other  
17 states with independent citizens commissions.

18 (y) The commission has the sole power to make its own rules  
19 of procedure. The commission shall have procurement and  
20 contracting authority to hire staff and consultants for the  
21 purposes of this section, including legal representation. All  
22 staff and consultants shall be retained through a public  
23 application process undertaken with the assistance of the  
24 Department of General Services. All applicants seeking to serve  
25 the commission as a member of staff or a consultant shall be  
26 subject to the restrictions in subsections (d) and (e).

27 (z) The General Assembly shall appropriate a minimum of  
28 \$11,500,000 by January 1 in each year ending in zero, sufficient  
29 to compensate the commissioners and to enable the commission to  
30 carry out its functions, operations and activities. The



1 commission shall furnish reports of expenditures, at least  
2 annually, to the Governor and the General Assembly and shall be  
3 subject to annual audit as provided by law. Any remaining funds  
4 shall revert to the General Fund.

5 (aa) The commission shall have legal standing to prosecute  
6 an action regarding the adequacy of resources provided for the  
7 operation of the commission and to defend any action regarding  
8 an adopted plan. The commission shall inform the General  
9 Assembly if the commission determines that funds or other  
10 resources provided for operation of the commission are not  
11 adequate. The General Assembly shall provide adequate funding to  
12 allow the commission to defend any action regarding an adopted  
13 plan.

14 (bb) The following shall apply to commission meetings,  
15 records and communications:

16 (1) The commission shall be considered a public body subject  
17 to laws applicable to Commonwealth agencies, including open  
18 meetings laws and laws allowing access to public records.

19 (2) The proceedings of the commission or committees shall be  
20 contemporaneously broadcast on the publicly accessible  
21 communication platform in a way that allows for public viewing  
22 and public interaction. To ensure public participation, meetings  
23 and hearings shall be held at times that allow for broad  
24 attendance and be widely advertised in multiple languages,  
25 including, but not limited to, the language or languages of  
26 applicable language minority groups within underserved or  
27 underrepresented populations, in English, and as many additional  
28 languages as the secretary deems appropriate to fulfill the  
29 public access requirement under this paragraph.

30 (3) Except for documents or communications subject to

1 attorney-client privilege, documents or communications created  
2 or received by a commissioner, a commission staff member or a  
3 consultant to the commission as a part of the commission's  
4 duties under this section shall not be exempt by any privilege.

5 (4) Records pertaining to a commission's action on a  
6 preliminary congressional or legislative district map or the  
7 analysis of a preliminary map shall be publicly disclosed on the  
8 commission's publicly accessible communication platform as soon  
9 as practicable after the records are created.

10 (5) The commission shall develop a system for receiving  
11 written comments from the public, including all electronic mail  
12 formats and a comment portal on the publicly accessible Internet  
13 website. The portal shall be able to facilitate real-time public  
14 comment during live-streamed commission and committee meetings  
15 and hearings. The comments shall be reviewed by the commission  
16 and committees and given consideration equal to in-person  
17 testimony.

18 (6) A commissioner, commission staff member or consultant to  
19 the commissioner may not communicate with any outside persons  
20 concerning the map drawing process outside of public meetings  
21 and public comment periods. To the extent that a commissioner,  
22 commission staff member or consultant to the commissioner  
23 receives a communication described under this paragraph, the  
24 communication shall be publicly disclosed on the commission's  
25 publicly accessible Internet website as soon as practicable  
26 after the communication is received.

27 (cc) The following shall apply to public hearings of the  
28 commission:

29 (1) To identify communities of interest and obtain other  
30 information relevant to the drawing of congressional and

1 legislative districts, the commission shall seek public input.  
2 Beginning no later than April 1 in a year ending in one and  
3 before any proposed district maps are drawn, the commission  
4 shall hold no less than eight public hearings across this  
5 Commonwealth to solicit testimony from a representative cross-  
6 section of this Commonwealth's population. The commission shall  
7 provide at least 14 days' notice before a public hearing is held  
8 as specified under paragraph (2). At least one hearing shall be  
9 held in each of the four largest cities in this Commonwealth by  
10 population, in central locations easily accessible by public  
11 transportation. Remaining hearings shall be located to balance  
12 accessibility in remaining portions of this Commonwealth.

13 (2) The commission shall adequately advertise a public  
14 hearing and schedule a public hearing in a manner to encourage  
15 attendance, including scheduling the public hearings outside of  
16 regular work hours and using technology that allows for real-  
17 time, virtual participation and feedback in the public hearing.  
18 The commission shall record a public hearing and post a video of  
19 the public hearing on the commission's publicly accessible  
20 communication platform within three days of the public hearing.

21 (dd) The commission shall provide a meaningful opportunity  
22 for all persons to participate in the redistricting process,  
23 including, but not limited to, the following:

24 (1) Issuing notices in multiple languages, including, but  
25 not limited to, the language or languages of applicable language  
26 minority groups within underserved or underrepresented  
27 populations, in English, and as many additional languages as the  
28 secretary deems appropriate to fulfill the public access  
29 requirement under this subsection.

30 (2) Ensuring that adequate translation services are

1 available at public hearings.

2 (3) Complying with all Federal and State law protections for  
3 individuals with disabilities.

4 (4) If the initial public input during the commission's  
5 public hearings does not appear to represent the diversity of  
6 this Commonwealth, the commission shall take remedial steps,  
7 including, but not limited to, conducting additional outreach,  
8 holding additional public hearings and identifying  
9 underrepresented communities.

10 (ee) The following shall apply to the consideration and  
11 approval of redistricting plans:

12 (1) No later than September 1 of each year ending in one, or  
13 no later than 60 days after population data for the Commonwealth  
14 as determined by the Federal decennial census are available,  
15 whichever comes later, the commission shall complete and provide  
16 for public review at least one proposed redistricting plan for  
17 each type of district.

18 (2) All proposed redistricting plans and supporting reports  
19 shall be made available to the public through the commission's  
20 publicly accessible communication portal.

21 (3) Accompanying reports shall include statistical data  
22 regarding compliance with criteria, comparison to top scoring  
23 submissions and explanation of rationale, plus explanation of  
24 ways public submissions and comment were incorporated.

25 (4) The commission, within 60 days following publication of  
26 all preliminary plans as set forth in paragraph (1), shall  
27 schedule and conduct at least eight public hearings, in  
28 different geographic regions of this Commonwealth, to receive  
29 comment and recommended changes for the preliminary plans. At  
30 least one hearing shall be held in each of the four largest

1 cities in this Commonwealth by population, in central locations  
2 easily accessible by public transportation. Remaining hearings  
3 shall be located to balance accessibility in remaining portions  
4 of this Commonwealth. The public communication portal shall  
5 provide opportunity for public comment or partial maps  
6 submissions suggesting alterations on each preliminary plan.

7 (5) No later than December 1 of each year ending in one, or  
8 no later than 120 days after population data for the  
9 Commonwealth as determined by the Federal decennial census are  
10 available, whichever comes first, the commission shall approve  
11 and publish a final redistricting plan for each category. Final  
12 plans must be accompanied by reports which shall include  
13 statistical data regarding compliance with criteria, comparison  
14 to top scoring submissions and explanation of rationale, plus  
15 explanation of ways public submissions and comment were  
16 incorporated.

17 (6) Upon approval, the commission shall certify the  
18 resulting redistricting plan to the secretary, which plan shall  
19 constitute the certified final plan.

20 (ff) If the commission does not complete and approve a final  
21 redistricting plan by December 1, the following shall apply:

22 (1) Each commissioner may propose one redistricting plan no  
23 later than December 10 in each category that is the subject of  
24 impasse. Each proposed redistricting plan shall be accompanied  
25 by a written report that demonstrates the plan's compliance with  
26 all applicable Federal and State laws, including redistricting  
27 criteria.

28 (2) All proposed plans, including any initial plans that  
29 failed to receive a vote by December 1 in accordance with  
30 section 5, plus all supporting written reports, shall be made

1 available for public review and comment for a period of 10 days.

2 (3) After the close of the public comment period, the  
3 commission shall vote on all proposed plans in each category as  
4 follows:

5 (i) Each commissioner shall rank all the plans submitted in  
6 each category according to preference, from most preferred to  
7 least preferred. Each commissioner shall rank their most  
8 preferred plan from the most preferred to least preferred plan,  
9 beginning with an integer of one for the most preferred plan. No  
10 plan shall be unranked, and no two plans shall receive the same  
11 ranking.

12 (ii) If a majority of commissioners rank the same submitted  
13 plan first, that plan shall be the final redistricting plan.

14 (iii) If no submitted redistricting plan is ranked first by  
15 a majority of commissioners, the final plan will be determined  
16 by an elimination procedure as follows:

17 (iv) Pairs of plans shall be compared, two at a time, in a  
18 random sequence. In each comparison of proposed plans, it shall  
19 be determined which of the two plans is preferred by a majority  
20 of the commission, and the plan less preferred by a majority of  
21 commissioners shall be eliminated.

22 (v) The elimination procedure in subparagraph (iv) shall be  
23 repeated among plans not eliminated until only one redistricting  
24 plan remains in each category.

25 (4) Upon approval of plans for all categories, the  
26 commission shall certify the resulting combined redistricting  
27 plan to the secretary, and that redistricting plan shall  
28 constitute the certified final plan.

29 (gg) The final plan shall have the force of law and the  
30 districts provided in the final plan shall be used thereafter in

1 elections to the General Assembly and United States Congress  
2 until the next redistricting as required under this section.

3 (hh) The Department of State shall provide support to the  
4 commission in the performance of its duties.

5 (ii) The term of office of each member of the commission  
6 expires upon the appointment of the first member of the  
7 succeeding commission.

8 (jj) A district that does not include the residence from  
9 which a member of the Senate was elected whether or not  
10 scheduled for election at the next general election shall elect  
11 a Senator at the election.

12 (kk) The following words and phrases when used in this  
13 section shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection  
14 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Commission." The Independent Redistricting Commission.

16 "Commissioner" or "member." A member of the Independent  
17 Redistricting Commission.

18 "Facility." The following:

19 (1) A Federal or State correctional facility.

20 (2) A State public facility for adjudicating delinquent  
21 youth.

22 (3) A county or municipal correctional facility.

23 "Federal decennial census." The decennial census required by  
24 Federal law to be conducted by the United States Census Bureau  
25 in every year ending in zero.

26 "Final plan." A plan for both congressional and legislative  
27 redistricting filed with the secretary.

28 "Last known residence." The address at which an individual  
29 was last domiciled prior to the individual's incarceration or  
30 placement in a facility as reported by the individual. For

1 individuals experiencing homelessness prior to incarceration or  
2 placement in a facility, the term shall mean the location where  
3 the individual regularly stayed or regularly received services  
4 prior to incarceration or placement as reported by the  
5 individual.

6 "Redistricting plan." A plan for congressional or  
7 legislative redistricting, or a plan for both congressional and  
8 legislative redistricting.

9 "Secretary." The Secretary of the Commonwealth.

10 Section 2. The following distinct amendment to the  
11 Constitution of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with  
12 Article XI:

13 That Article II be amended by adding a section to read:

14 § 19. Redistricting criteria.

15 (a) In addition to the requirements of section 16, the  
16 following standards shall apply, in descending order of  
17 priority, and the commission shall provide a written explanation  
18 of any deviation from these standards:

19 (1) Districts shall comply with the United States  
20 Constitution and comply with 52 U.S.C. Ch. 103 (relating to  
21 enforcement of voting rights) and other Federal laws.

22 (2) Districts shall provide racial minorities an equal  
23 opportunity to participate in the political process and may not  
24 dilute or diminish their ability to elect candidates of choice  
25 whether alone or in coalition with others.

26 (3) A redistricting plan may not provide an advantage to any  
27 political party. An advantage to a political party shall be  
28 determined by using accepted measures of partisan fairness.

29 (4) A redistricting plan may not be drawn favoring or  
30 disfavoring any incumbent elected official, candidate or



1 prospective candidate for elective office.

2 (5) Districts shall respect communities of interest to the  
3 extent practicable and after compliance with the requirements of  
4 paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4).

5 (6) The boundaries of each district shall be contiguous. A  
6 county or municipal fragment or enclave containing less than 50  
7 persons shall be considered contiguous to the district if the  
8 remainder of the county or municipality is wholly within the  
9 same district.

10 (7) To the extent practicable, senatorial and representative  
11 districts shall be drawn with the fewest number of divisions to  
12 counties and municipalities within a population deviation of  
13 2.5% above or below the ideal population. A county may not  
14 contain more senatorial districts than the number required by  
15 the population plus one. A county may not contain more  
16 representative districts than the number required by the  
17 population plus two. A precinct may not be split in the drawing  
18 of district lines.

19 (8) To the extent practicable, congressional districts shall  
20 be drawn with the fewest number of divisions to counties and  
21 municipalities within a population deviation of .25% above or  
22 below the ideal population. A county may not contain more  
23 congressional districts than the number required by the  
24 population plus one. A precinct may not be split in the drawing  
25 of district lines.

26 (9) To the extent possible without violating the preceding  
27 criteria, districts shall be compact in form as determined  
28 through standard compactness measures and district boundaries  
29 shall conform to natural boundaries existing in the physical  
30 geography of an area.

1 (b) If any provision of this section is declared invalid or  
2 unconstitutional by a court, the validity of the remainder shall  
3 not be affected by the invalidity or unconstitutionality.

4 (c) The following words and phrases when used in this  
5 section shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection  
6 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Community of interest." An area with recognized  
8 similarities of interests, including, but not limited to,  
9 ethnic, racial, economic, tribal, social, cultural, geographic  
10 or historic identities. Counties, municipalities, townships and  
11 school districts may constitute communities of interest,  
12 provided that the record before the commission clearly and  
13 convincingly demonstrates such subdivision is a community of  
14 people who have broadly shared interests and representational  
15 needs that are greater than those of other overlapping  
16 communities of interest. A community of interest shall not  
17 include common relationships with political parties or political  
18 candidates.

19 Section 3. (a) Upon the first passage by the General  
20 Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the  
21 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to  
22 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article  
23 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the  
24 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in  
25 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after  
26 passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

27 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these  
28 proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the  
29 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the  
30 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the

1 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required  
2 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such  
3 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of  
4 these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the  
5 Commonwealth shall:

6           (1) Submit the proposed constitutional amendments under  
7 section 1 of this resolution to the qualified electors of  
8 this Commonwealth as a single ballot question at the first  
9 general or municipal election which meets the requirements of  
10 and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the  
11 Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three  
12 months after the proposed constitutional amendments are  
13 passed by the General Assembly.

14           (2) Submit the proposed constitutional amendment under  
15 section 2 of this resolution to the qualified electors of  
16 this Commonwealth as a separate ballot question at the first  
17 general or municipal election which meets the requirements of  
18 and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the  
19 Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three  
20 months after the proposed constitutional amendment is passed  
21 by the General Assembly.