

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 for the purpose, duties, and membership of  
7           the 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; providing procedures for such  
13          hearings; requiring the commission to receive certain  
14          information from residents of the state through  
15          specified means; requiring the commission to transmit  
16          certain plans to the Legislature for consideration;  
17          providing that commission members and employees are  
18          subject to chapters 119 and 286, F.S., relating to  
19          public records and public meetings, respectively, and  
20          are subject to specified financial disclosure  
21          requirements; prohibiting persons not serving on or  
22          employed by the commission from influencing or  
23          attempting to influence commission members and  
24          employees other than through prescribed processes;  
25          providing criminal penalties; providing an effective  
26          date.

27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52

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

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 plans and redistricting plans to the Legislature and conducting public hearings on the proposed plans.

2. Beginning in 2020, and for each decennial period thereafter, commission members must be appointed before January 1, and the first commission meeting must occur before March 1.

(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.

53 3. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
 54 Senate.

55 4. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
 56 House of Representatives.

57 5. Five members appointed by the Governor:

58 a. One of whom must be a registered Republican, as  
 59 designated on his or her voter registration.

60 b. One of whom must be a registered Democrat, as  
 61 designated on his or her voter registration.

62 c. Three of whom must be registered with a minor political  
 63 party or have no party affiliation, as designated on his or her  
 64 voter registration.

65 (b)1. A member must have resided in the state for at least  
 66 5 years before appointment to the commission.

67 2. A member must have registered with his or her political  
 68 party, or have no party affiliation, for at least 5 years before  
 69 appointment to the commission.

70 (c) A commission member may not hold any elected office  
 71 during his or her service on the commission.

72 (d) Commission members shall serve without compensation  
 73 but shall be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses in  
 74 accordance with s. 112.061.

75 (3) The Legislature shall annually appropriate funds to  
 76 the commission for employing professional staff, procuring  
 77 office space and necessary equipment, and other expenses  
 78 necessary for the staff to perform their duties. The

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

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

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

92 (c) As part of the hearing process, the commission shall  
93 create and maintain a website through which residents of the  
94 state may submit information on behalf of any individual,  
95 employee, group, or themselves. The commission shall also  
96 implement procedures allowing residents to submit information by  
97 regular mail, telephone, and facsimile.

98 (d) Beginning in 2022, and for each decennial period  
99 thereafter, plans developed and approved by the commission shall  
100 be transmitted to the Legislature before January 1 to be  
101 considered by the Legislature at its next regular session as  
102 required by s. 16, Art. III of the State Constitution.

103 (5) In developing district boundaries, the commission must  
104 ensure that plans conform to ss. 20 and 21, Art. III of the

105 State Constitution.

106 (6) Commission members and employees are subject to the  
107 provisions of chapter 119, relating to public records, and the  
108 provisions of chapter 286, relating to public meetings, and  
109 shall comply with the applicable financial disclosure  
110 requirements of ss. 112.3148 and 112.3149.

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

117 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.