

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 to receive information  
13          from 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 prescribed  
22          processes; 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 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.

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 his or her  
61 voter registration.

62 (b)1. A member must have resided in the state for at least  
63 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 commission member may not hold an elected office  
68 during his or her service on the commission.

69 (d) Commission members shall serve without compensation  
70 but shall be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses in  
71 accordance with 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  
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 allowing residents to submit information by  
93 regular mail, telephone, and facsimile.

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

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

101 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 ss. 112.3148 and 112.3149.

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, 2017.