

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2173

To require States to conduct Congressional redistricting through independent commissions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require States to conduct Congressional redistricting through independent commissions, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Redistricting Reform Act of 2015”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 Sec. 2. Finding of Constitutional authority.

TITLE I—REQUIREMENTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

- Sec. 101. Limit on congressional redistricting after an apportionment.
 Sec. 102. Requiring congressional redistricting to be conducted through plan of independent State commission.

TITLE II—INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

- Sec. 201. Independent redistricting commission.
 Sec. 202. Establishment of selection pool of individuals eligible to serve as members of commission.
 Sec. 203. Criteria for redistricting plan by independent commission; public notice and input.
 Sec. 204. Establishment of related entities.

TITLE III—ROLE OF COURTS IN DEVELOPMENT OF REDISTRICTING PLANS

- Sec. 301. Enactment of plan developed by 3-judge court.
 Sec. 302. Special rule for redistricting conducted under order of Federal court.

TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATIVE AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 401. Payments to States for carrying out redistricting.
 Sec. 402. Civil enforcement.
 Sec. 403. State apportionment notice defined.
 Sec. 404. No effect on elections for State and local office.
 Sec. 405. Effective date.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDING OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.**

2 Congress finds that it has the authority to establish
 3 the terms and conditions States must follow in carrying
 4 out Congressional redistricting after an apportionment of
 5 Members of the House of Representatives because—

6 (1) the authority granted to Congress under ar-
 7 ticle I, section 4 of the Constitution of the United
 8 States gives Congress the power to enact laws gov-
 9 erning the time, place, and manner of elections for
 10 Members of the House of Representatives; and

11 (2) the authority granted to Congress under
 12 section 5 of the fourteenth amendment to the Con-

1 stitution gives Congress the power to enact laws to
 2 enforce section 2 of such amendment, which requires
 3 Representatives to be apportioned among the several
 4 States according to their number.

5 **TITLE I—REQUIREMENTS FOR**
 6 **CONGRESSIONAL REDIS-**
 7 **TRICTING**

8 **SEC. 101. LIMIT ON CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING**
 9 **AFTER AN APPORTIONMENT.**

10 The Act entitled “An Act for the relief of Doctor Ri-
 11 cardo Vallejo Samala and to provide for congressional re-
 12 districting”, approved December 14, 1967 (2 U.S.C. 2c),
 13 is amended by adding at the end the following: “A State
 14 which has been redistricted in the manner provided by law
 15 after an apportionment under section 22(a) of the Act en-
 16 titled ‘An Act to provide for the fifteenth and subsequent
 17 decennial censuses and to provide for an apportionment
 18 of Representatives in Congress’, approved June 18, 1929
 19 (2 U.S.C. 2a), may not be redistricted again until after
 20 the next apportionment of Representatives under such sec-
 21 tion, unless a court requires the State to conduct such
 22 subsequent redistricting to comply with the Constitution
 23 or to enforce the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.
 24 10301 et seq.).”.

1 **SEC. 102. REQUIRING CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING TO**
2 **BE CONDUCTED THROUGH PLAN OF INDE-**
3 **PENDENT STATE COMMISSION.**

4 (a) USE OF PLAN REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any
5 other provision of law, any Congressional redistricting
6 conducted by a State shall be conducted in accordance
7 with—

8 (1) the redistricting plan developed and enacted
9 into law by the independent redistricting commission
10 established in the State, in accordance with title II;
11 or

12 (2) if a plan developed by such commission is
13 not enacted into law, the redistricting plan developed
14 and enacted into law by a 3-judge court of the
15 United States District Court for the District of Co-
16 lumbia, in accordance with section 301.

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 22(c) of
18 the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the fifteenth and
19 subsequent decennial censuses and to provide for an ap-
20 portionment of Representatives in Congress”, approved
21 June 18, 1929 (2 U.S.C. 2a(c)), is amended by striking
22 “in the manner provided by the law thereof” and insert-
23 ing: “in the manner provided by the Redistricting Reform
24 Act of 2015”.

TITLE II—INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

SEC. 201. INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The nonpartisan agency established or designated by a State under section 204(a) shall establish an independent redistricting commission for the State, which shall consist of 12 members appointed by the agency as follows:

(A) The agency shall appoint 4 members on a random basis from the majority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 202(b)(1)(A)).

(B) The agency shall appoint 4 members on a random basis from the minority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 202(b)(1)(B)).

(C) The agency shall appoint 4 members on a random basis from the independent category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 202(b)(1)(C)).

(2) APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES TO SERVE IN CASE OF VACANCIES.—At the time the agency appoints the members of the independent redistricting commission under paragraph (1) from each of the

1 categories referred to in such paragraph, the agency
2 shall, on a random basis, designate 2 other individ-
3 uals from such category to serve as alternate mem-
4 bers who may be appointed to fill vacancies in the
5 commission in accordance with paragraph (3).

6 (3) VACANCY.—If a vacancy occurs in the com-
7 mission with respect to a member who was ap-
8 pointed from one of the categories referred to in
9 paragraph (1), the nonpartisan agency shall fill the
10 vacancy by appointing, on a random basis, one of
11 the 2 alternates from such category who was des-
12 ignated under paragraph (2). At the time the agency
13 appoints an alternate to fill a vacancy under the pre-
14 vious sentence, the agency shall designate, on a ran-
15 dom basis, another individual from the same cat-
16 egory to serve as an alternate member, in accord-
17 ance with paragraph (2).

18 (b) PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING COMMISSION
19 BUSINESS.—

20 (1) CHAIR.—Members of an independent redis-
21 tricting commission established under this section
22 shall select by majority vote one member who was
23 appointed from the independent category of the ap-
24 proved selection pool described in section
25 202(b)(1)(C) to serve as chair of the commission.

1 The commission may not take any action to develop
2 a redistricting plan for the State under section 203
3 until the appointment of the commission's chair.

4 (2) REQUIRING MAJORITY APPROVAL FOR AC-
5 TIONS.—The independent redistricting commission
6 of a State may not publish and disseminate any
7 draft or final redistricting plan, or take any other
8 action, without the approval of at least—

9 (A) a majority of the whole membership of
10 the commission; and

11 (B) at least one member of the commission
12 appointed from each of the categories of the ap-
13 proved selection pool described in section
14 202(b)(1).

15 (3) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
16 the commission shall constitute a quorum.

17 (c) STAFF; CONTRACTORS.—

18 (1) STAFF.—The independent redistricting
19 commission of a State may appoint and set the pay
20 of such staff as it considers appropriate, subject to
21 State law.

22 (2) CONTRACTORS.—The independent redis-
23 tricting commission of a State may enter into such
24 contracts with vendors as it considers appropriate,
25 subject to State law, except that any such contract

1 shall be valid only if approved by the vote of a ma-
 2 jority of the members of the commission, including
 3 at least one member appointed from each of the cat-
 4 egories of the approved selection pool described in
 5 section 202(b)(1).

6 (3) GOAL OF IMPARTIALITY.—The commission
 7 shall take such steps as it considers appropriate to
 8 ensure that any staff appointed under this sub-
 9 section, and any vendor with whom the commission
 10 enters into a contract under this subsection, will
 11 work in an impartial manner, and may require any
 12 person who applies for an appointment to a staff po-
 13 sition or for a vendor’s contract with the commission
 14 to provide information on the person’s history of po-
 15 litical activity (including donations to candidates, po-
 16 litical committees, and political parties) as a condi-
 17 tion of the appointment or the contract.

18 (d) TERMINATION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The independent redis-
 20 tricting commission of a State shall terminate on the
 21 earlier of—

22 (A) June 14 of the following year ending
 23 in the numeral zero; or

24 (B) the day on which the nonpartisan
 25 agency established or designated by a State

1 under section 204(a) has, in accordance with
 2 section 202(b)(1), submitted a selection pool to
 3 the Select Committee on Redistricting for the
 4 State established under section 204(b).

5 (2) PRESERVATION OF RECORDS.—The State
 6 shall ensure that the records of the independent re-
 7 districting commission are retained in the appro-
 8 priate State archive in such manner as may be nec-
 9 essary to enable the State to respond to any civil ac-
 10 tion brought with respect to Congressional redis-
 11 tricting in the State.

12 **SEC. 202. ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECTION POOL OF INDIV-**
 13 **VIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS MEMBERS**
 14 **OF COMMISSION.**

15 (a) CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—An individual is eligible to
 17 serve as a member of an independent redistricting
 18 commission if the individual meets each of the fol-
 19 lowing criteria:

20 (A) As of the date of appointment, the in-
 21 dividual is registered to vote in elections for
 22 Federal office held in the State.

23 (B) During the 3-year period ending on
 24 the date of the individual's appointment, the in-
 25 dividual has been continuously registered to

1 vote with the same political party, or has not
2 been registered to vote with any political party.

3 (C) The individual submits to the non-
4 partisan agency established or designated by a
5 State under section 203, at such time and in
6 such form as the agency may require, an appli-
7 cation for inclusion in the selection pool under
8 this section, and includes with the application a
9 written statement containing the following in-
10 formation and assurances:

11 (i) A statement of the political party
12 with which the individual is affiliated, if
13 any.

14 (ii) An assurance that the individual
15 shall commit to carrying out the individ-
16 ual's duties under this Act in an honest,
17 independent, and impartial fashion, and to
18 upholding public confidence in the integrity
19 of the redistricting process.

20 (iii) An assurance that, during the
21 covered periods described in paragraph (3),
22 the individual has not taken and will not
23 take any action which would disqualify the
24 individual from serving as a member of the
25 commission under paragraph (2).

1 (2) DISQUALIFICATIONS.—An individual is not
2 eligible to serve as a member of the commission if
3 any of the following applies during any of the cov-
4 ered periods described in paragraph (3):

5 (A) The individual or (in the case of the
6 covered periods described in subparagraphs (A)
7 and (B) of paragraph (3)) an immediate family
8 member of the individual holds public office or
9 is a candidate for election for public office.

10 (B) The individual or (in the case of the
11 covered periods described in subparagraphs (A)
12 and (B) of paragraph (3)) an immediate family
13 member of the individual serves as an officer of
14 a political party or as an officer, employee, or
15 paid consultant of a campaign committee of a
16 candidate for public office.

17 (C) The individual or (in the case of the
18 covered periods described in subparagraphs (A)
19 and (B) of paragraph (3)) an immediate family
20 member of the individual holds a position as a
21 registered lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclo-
22 sure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) or an
23 equivalent State or local law.

24 (D) The individual or (in the case of the
25 covered periods described in subparagraphs (A)

1 and (B) of paragraph (3)) an immediate family
2 member of the individual is an employee of an
3 elected public official, a contractor with the leg-
4 islature of the State, or a donor to the cam-
5 paign of any candidate for public office (other
6 than a donor who, during any of such covered
7 periods, gives an aggregate amount of \$20,000
8 or less to the campaigns of all candidates for all
9 public offices).

10 (3) COVERED PERIODS DESCRIBED.—In this
11 subsection, the term “covered period” means, with
12 respect to the appointment of an individual to the
13 commission, any of the following:

14 (A) The 5-year period ending on the date
15 of the individual’s appointment.

16 (B) The period beginning on the date of
17 the individual’s appointment and ending on Au-
18 gust 14 of the next year ending in the numeral
19 one.

20 (C) The 5-year period beginning on the
21 day after the last day of the period described in
22 subparagraph (B).

23 (4) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER DEFINED.—In
24 this subsection, the term “immediate family mem-
25 ber” means, with respect to an individual, a father,

1 stepfather, mother, stepmother, son, stepson, daugh-
2 ter, stepdaughter, brother, stepbrother, sister, step-
3 sister, husband, wife, father-in-law, or mother-in-
4 law.

5 (b) DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMISSION OF SELECTION
6 POOL.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than June 15 of
8 each year ending in the numeral zero, the non-
9 partisan agency established or designated by a State
10 under section 204(a) shall develop and submit to the
11 Select Committee on Redistricting for the State es-
12 tablished under section 204(b) a selection pool of 36
13 individuals who are eligible to serve as members of
14 the independent redistricting commission of the
15 State under this Act, consisting of individuals in the
16 following categories:

17 (A) A majority category, consisting of 12
18 individuals who are affiliated with the political
19 party with the largest percentage of the reg-
20 istered voters in the State who are affiliated
21 with a political party (as determined with re-
22 spect to the most recent statewide election for
23 Federal office held in the State for which such
24 information is available).

1 (B) A minority category, consisting of 12
2 individuals who are affiliated with the political
3 party with the second largest percentage of the
4 registered voters in the State who are affiliated
5 with a political party (as so determined).

6 (C) An independent category, consisting of
7 12 individuals who are not affiliated with either
8 of the political parties described in subpara-
9 graph (A) or subparagraph (B).

10 (2) FACTORS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DEVEL-
11 OPING POOL.—In selecting individuals for the selec-
12 tion pool under this subsection, the nonpartisan
13 agency shall—

14 (A) to the maximum extent practicable, en-
15 sure that the pool reflects the representative de-
16 mographic groups (including races, ethnicities,
17 and genders) and geographic regions of the
18 State; and

19 (B) take into consideration the analytical
20 skills of the individuals selected in relevant
21 fields (including mapping, data management,
22 law, community outreach, demography, and the
23 geography of the State) and their ability to
24 work on an impartial basis.

1 (3) DETERMINATION OF POLITICAL PARTY AF-
2 FILIATION OF INDIVIDUALS IN SELECTION POOL.—
3 For purposes of this section, an individual shall be
4 considered to be affiliated with a political party on
5 the basis of the information the individual provides
6 in the application submitted under subsection
7 (a)(1)(D).

8 (4) ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO APPLY FOR
9 INCLUSION IN POOL.—The nonpartisan agency shall
10 take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that
11 residents of the State across various geographic re-
12 gions and demographic groups are aware of the op-
13 portunity to serve on the independent redistricting
14 commission, including publicizing the role of the
15 panel and using newspapers, broadcast media, and
16 online sources, including ethnic media, to encourage
17 individuals to apply for inclusion in the selection
18 pool developed under this subsection.

19 (5) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF SELEC-
20 TION POOL.—At the time the nonpartisan agency
21 submits the selection pool to the Select Committee
22 on Redistricting under paragraph (1), it shall pub-
23 lish a report describing the process by which the
24 pool was developed, and shall include in the report
25 a description of how the individuals in the pool meet

1 the eligibility criteria of subsection (a) and of how
2 the pool reflects the factors the agency is required
3 to take into consideration under paragraph (2).

4 (6) ACTION BY SELECT COMMITTEE.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 days
6 after receiving the selection pool from the non-
7 partisan agency under paragraph (1), the Select
8 Committee on Redistricting shall—

9 (i) approve the pool as submitted by
10 the nonpartisan agency, in which case the
11 pool shall be considered the approved selec-
12 tion pool for purposes of section 201(a)(1);
13 or

14 (ii) reject the pool, in which case the
15 nonpartisan agency shall develop and sub-
16 mit a replacement selection pool in accord-
17 ance with subsection (c).

18 (B) INACTION DEEMED REJECTION.—If
19 the Select Committee on Redistricting fails to
20 approve or reject the pool within the deadline
21 set forth in subparagraph (A), the Select Com-
22 mittee shall be deemed to have rejected the pool
23 for purposes of such subparagraph.

24 (c) DEVELOPMENT OF REPLACEMENT SELECTION
25 POOL.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Select Committee on
2 Redistricting rejects the selection pool submitted by
3 the nonpartisan agency under subsection (b), not
4 later than 14 days after the rejection, the non-
5 partisan agency shall develop and submit to the Se-
6 lect Committee a replacement selection pool, under
7 the same terms and conditions that applied to the
8 development and submission of the selection pool
9 under paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (b).
10 The replacement pool submitted under this para-
11 graph may include individuals who were included in
12 the rejected selection pool submitted under sub-
13 section (b), so long as at least one of the individuals
14 in the replacement pool was not included in such re-
15 jected pool.

16 (2) ACTION BY SELECT COMMITTEE.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 days
18 after receiving the replacement selection pool
19 from the nonpartisan agency under paragraph
20 (1), the Select Committee on Redistricting
21 shall—

22 (i) approve the pool as submitted by
23 the nonpartisan agency, in which case the
24 pool shall be considered the approved selec-

1 tion pool for purposes of section 201(a)(1);
 2 or

3 (ii) reject the pool, in which case the
 4 nonpartisan agency shall develop and sub-
 5 mit a second replacement selection pool in
 6 accordance with subsection (d).

7 (B) INACTION DEEMED REJECTION.—If
 8 the Select Committee on Redistricting fails to
 9 approve or reject the pool within the deadline
 10 set forth in subparagraph (A), the Select Com-
 11 mittee shall be deemed to have rejected the pool
 12 for purposes of such subparagraph.

13 (d) DEVELOPMENT OF SECOND REPLACEMENT SE-
 14 LECTION POOL.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Select Committee on
 16 Redistricting rejects the replacement selection pool
 17 submitted by the nonpartisan agency under sub-
 18 section (c), not later than 14 days after the rejec-
 19 tion, the nonpartisan agency shall develop and sub-
 20 mit to the Select Committee a second replacement
 21 selection pool, under the same terms and conditions
 22 that applied to the development and submission of
 23 the selection pool under paragraphs (1) through (5)
 24 of subsection (b). The second replacement selection
 25 pool submitted under this paragraph may include in-

1 individuals who were included in the rejected selection
2 pool submitted under subsection (b) or the rejected
3 replacement selection pool submitted under sub-
4 section (c), so long as at least one of the individuals
5 in the replacement pool was not included in either
6 such rejected pool.

7 (2) ACTION BY SELECT COMMITTEE.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 days
9 after receiving the second replacement selection
10 pool from the nonpartisan agency under para-
11 graph (1), the Select Committee on Redis-
12 tricting shall—

13 (i) approve the pool as submitted by
14 the nonpartisan agency, in which case the
15 pool shall be considered the approved selec-
16 tion pool for purposes of section 201(a)(1);
17 or

18 (ii) reject the pool, in which case—

19 (I) the nonpartisan agency shall
20 not develop or submit any other selec-
21 tion pool for purposes of this Act; and

22 (II) the United States District
23 Court for the District of Columbia
24 shall develop and enact the redis-

1 tricting plan for the State, in accord-
2 ance with section 301.

3 (B) INACTION DEEMED REJECTION.—If
4 the Select Committee on Redistricting fails to
5 approve or reject the pool within the deadline
6 set forth in subparagraph (A), the Select Com-
7 mittee shall be deemed to have rejected the pool
8 for purposes of such subparagraph.

9 **SEC. 203. CRITERIA FOR REDISTRICTING PLAN BY INDE-**
10 **PENDENT COMMISSION; PUBLIC NOTICE AND**
11 **INPUT.**

12 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF REDISTRICTING PLAN.—

13 (1) CRITERIA.—The independent redistricting
14 commission of a State shall develop a redistricting
15 plan for the State in accordance with the following
16 criteria, prioritized according to the following order:

17 (A) Districts shall each have equal popu-
18 lation per representative as nearly as prac-
19 ticable, in accordance with the Constitution of
20 the United States.

21 (B) To the extent not inconsistent with the
22 above criteria, districts shall comply with the
23 Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et
24 seq.).

1 (C) To the extent not inconsistent with the
2 above criteria, districts shall be geographically
3 contiguous.

4 (D) To the extent practicable and not in-
5 consistent with the above criteria, district
6 boundaries shall minimize the division of any
7 community of interest, municipality, county, or
8 neighborhood. For purposes of this subpara-
9 graph, a community of interest is a contiguous
10 population which shares common social or eco-
11 nomic interests that should be included within
12 a single district for purposes of its effective and
13 fair representation. Examples of such shared in-
14 terests are those common to an urban area, a
15 rural area, an industrial area, or an agricultural
16 area, and those common to areas in which the
17 people share similar living standards, use the
18 same transportation facilities, have similar work
19 opportunities, or have access to the same media
20 of communication relevant to the election proc-
21 ess. Communities of interest shall not include
22 relationships with political parties, incumbent
23 officeholders, or political candidates.

24 (E) To the extent practicable and not in-
25 consistent with the above criteria, districts shall

1 be geographically compact such that nearby
2 areas of population are not bypassed for more
3 distant areas of population.

4 (2) FACTORS PROHIBITED FROM CONSIDER-
5 ATION.—In developing the redistricting plan for the
6 State, the independent redistricting commission may
7 not take into consideration any of the following fac-
8 tors, except to the extent necessary to comply with
9 the Voting Rights Act of 1965:

10 (A) The political party affiliation or voting
11 history of the population of a district.

12 (B) The residence of any Member of the
13 House of Representatives or candidate.

14 (b) PUBLIC NOTICE AND INPUT.—

15 (1) USE OF OPEN AND TRANSPARENT PROC-
16 ESS.—The independent redistricting commission of a
17 State shall hold each of its meetings in public, shall
18 solicit and take into consideration comments from
19 the public throughout the process of developing the
20 redistricting plan for the State, and shall carry out
21 its duties in an open and transparent manner which
22 provides for the widest public dissemination reason-
23 ably possible of its proposed and final redistricting
24 plans.

1 (2) WEBSITE.—The commission shall maintain
2 a public Internet site which is not affiliated with or
3 maintained by the office of any elected official and
4 which includes the following features:

5 (A) General information on the commission
6 and its members, including contact information.

7 (B) An updated schedule of commission
8 hearings and activities, including deadlines for
9 the submission of comments.

10 (C) All draft redistricting plans developed
11 by the commission under subsection (c) and the
12 final redistricting plan developed under sub-
13 section (d).

14 (D) Live streaming of commission hearings
15 and an archive of previous meetings and other
16 commission records.

17 (E) A method by which members of the
18 public may submit comments directly to the
19 commission.

20 (F) Access to the demographic data used
21 by the commission to develop the proposed re-
22 districting plans, together with any software
23 used to draw maps of proposed districts.

24 (3) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—The commis-
25 sion shall solicit, accept, and consider comments

1 from the public with respect to its duties, activities,
 2 and procedures at any time during the period—

3 (A) which begins on January 1 of the year
 4 ending in the numeral one; and

5 (B) which ends 7 days before the date of
 6 the meeting at which the commission shall vote
 7 on approving the final redistricting plan for en-
 8 actment into law under subsection (d)(2).

9 (4) MEETINGS AND HEARINGS IN VARIOUS GEO-
 10 GRAPHIC LOCATIONS.—To the greatest extent prac-
 11 ticable, the commission shall hold its meetings and
 12 hearings in various geographic regions and locations
 13 throughout the State.

14 (c) DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLICATION OF PRELIMI-
 15 NARY REDISTRICTING PLAN.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Prior to developing and pub-
 17 lishing a final redistricting plan under subsection
 18 (d), the independent redistricting commission of a
 19 State shall develop and publish a preliminary redis-
 20 tricting plan.

21 (2) MINIMUM PUBLIC HEARINGS PRIOR TO DE-
 22 VELOPMENT.—

23 (A) 3 HEARINGS REQUIRED.—Prior to de-
 24 veloping a preliminary redistricting plan under
 25 this subsection, the commission shall hold not

1 fewer than 3 public hearings at which members
2 of the public may provide input and comments
3 regarding the potential contents of redistricting
4 plans for the State and the process by which
5 the commission will develop the preliminary
6 plan under this subsection.

7 (B) MINIMUM PERIOD FOR NOTICE PRIOR
8 TO HEARINGS.—The commission shall notify
9 the public through the website maintained
10 under subsection (b)(2), as well as through pub-
11 lication of notice in newspapers of general cir-
12 culation throughout the State, of the date, time,
13 and location of each of the hearings held under
14 this paragraph not fewer than 14 days prior to
15 the date of the hearing.

16 (3) PUBLICATION OF PRELIMINARY PLAN.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The commission shall
18 post the preliminary redistricting plan devel-
19 oped under this subsection, together with a re-
20 port that includes the commission's responses
21 to any public comments received under sub-
22 section (b)(3), on the website maintained under
23 subsection (b)(2), and shall provide for the pub-
24 lication of each such plan in newspapers of gen-
25 eral circulation throughout the State.

1 (B) MINIMUM PERIOD FOR NOTICE PRIOR
2 TO PUBLICATION.—Not fewer than 14 days
3 prior to the date on which the commission posts
4 and publishes the preliminary plan under this
5 paragraph, the commission shall notify the pub-
6 lic through the website maintained under sub-
7 section (b)(2), as well as through publication of
8 notice in newspapers of general circulation
9 throughout the State, of the pending publica-
10 tion of the plan.

11 (4) MINIMUM PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
12 AFTER PUBLICATION OF PLAN.—The commission
13 shall accept and consider comments from the public
14 with respect to the preliminary redistricting plan
15 published under paragraph (3) for not fewer than 30
16 days after the date on which the plan is published.

17 (5) POST-PUBLICATION HEARINGS.—

18 (A) 3 HEARINGS REQUIRED.—After post-
19 ing and publishing the preliminary redistricting
20 plan under paragraph (3), the commission shall
21 hold not fewer than 3 public hearings at which
22 members of the public may provide input and
23 comments regarding the preliminary plan.

24 (B) MINIMUM PERIOD FOR NOTICE PRIOR
25 TO HEARINGS.—The commission shall notify

1 the public through the website maintained
2 under subsection (b)(2), as well as through pub-
3 lication of notice in newspapers of general cir-
4 culation throughout the State, of the date, time,
5 and location of each of the hearings held under
6 this paragraph not fewer than 14 days prior to
7 the date of the hearing.

8 (6) PERMITTING MULTIPLE PRELIMINARY
9 PLANS.—At the option of the commission, after de-
10 veloping and publishing the preliminary redistricting
11 plan under this subsection, the commission may de-
12 velop and publish subsequent preliminary redis-
13 tricting plans, so long as the process for the develop-
14 ment and publication of each such subsequent plan
15 meets the requirements set forth in this subsection
16 for the development and publication of the first pre-
17 liminary redistricting plan.

18 (d) PROCESS FOR ENACTMENT OF FINAL REDIS-
19 TRICTING PLAN.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—After taking into consider-
21 ation comments from the public on any preliminary
22 redistricting plan developed and published under
23 subsection (c), the independent redistricting commis-
24 sion of a State shall develop and publish a final re-
25 districting plan for the State.

1 (2) MEETING; FINAL VOTE.—Not later than
2 August 15 of each year ending in the numeral one,
3 the commission shall hold a public hearing at which
4 the members of the commission shall vote on approv-
5 ing the final plan for enactment into law.

6 (3) PUBLICATION OF PLAN AND ACCOMPANYING
7 MATERIALS.—Not fewer than 14 days before the
8 date of the meeting under paragraph (2), the com-
9 mission shall provide the following information to
10 the public through the website maintained under
11 subsection (b)(2), as well as through newspapers of
12 general circulation throughout the State:

13 (A) The final redistricting plan, including
14 all relevant maps.

15 (B) A report by the commission to accom-
16 pany the plan which provides the background
17 for the plan and the commission's reasons for
18 selecting the plan as the final redistricting plan,
19 including responses to the public comments re-
20 ceived on any preliminary redistricting plan de-
21 veloped and published under subsection (c).

22 (C) Any dissenting or additional views with
23 respect to the plan of individual members of the
24 commission.

1 (4) ENACTMENT.—The final redistricting plan
 2 developed and published under this subsection shall
 3 be deemed to be enacted into law if—

4 (A) the plan is approved by a majority of
 5 the whole membership of the commission; and

6 (B) at least one member of the commission
 7 appointed from each of the categories of the ap-
 8 proved selection pool described in section
 9 202(b)(1) approves the plan.

10 (e) DEADLINE.—The independent redistricting com-
 11 mission of a State shall approve a final redistricting plan
 12 for the State not later than August 15 of each year ending
 13 in the numeral one.

14 **SEC. 204. ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATED ENTITIES.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OR DESIGNATION OF NON-
 16 PARTISAN AGENCY OF STATE LEGISLATURE.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall establish a
 18 nonpartisan agency in the legislative branch of the
 19 State government to appoint the members of the
 20 independent redistricting commission for the State
 21 in accordance with section 201.

22 (2) NONPARTISANSHIP DESCRIBED.—For pur-
 23 poses of this subsection, an agency shall be consid-
 24 ered to be nonpartisan if under law the agency—

1 (A) is required to provide services on a
2 nonpartisan basis;

3 (B) is required to maintain impartiality;
4 and

5 (C) is prohibited from advocating for the
6 adoption or rejection of any legislative proposal.

7 (3) DESIGNATION OF EXISTING AGENCY.—At
8 its option, a State may designate an existing agency
9 in the legislative branch of its government to appoint
10 the members of the independent redistricting com-
11 mission plan for the State under this Act, so long
12 as the agency meets the requirements for non-
13 partisanship under this subsection.

14 (4) TERMINATION OF AGENCY SPECIFICALLY
15 ESTABLISHED FOR REDISTRICTING.—If a State does
16 not designate an existing agency under paragraph
17 (3) but instead establishes a new agency to serve as
18 the nonpartisan agency under this section, the new
19 agency shall terminate upon the enactment into law
20 of the redistricting plan for the State.

21 (5) DEADLINE.—The State shall meet the re-
22 quirements of this subsection not later than each
23 August 15 of a year ending in the numeral nine.

24 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON RE-
25 DISTRICTING.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall appoint a
2 Select Committee on Redistricting to approve or dis-
3 approve a selection pool developed by the inde-
4 pendent redistricting commission for the State under
5 section 202.

6 (2) APPOINTMENT.—The Select Committee on
7 Redistricting for a State under this subsection shall
8 consist of the following members:

9 (A) 1 member of the upper house of the
10 State legislature, who shall be appointed by the
11 leader of the party with the greatest number of
12 seats in the upper house.

13 (B) 1 member of the upper house of the
14 State legislature, who shall be appointed by the
15 leader of the party with the second greatest
16 number of seats in the upper house.

17 (C) 1 member of the lower house of the
18 State legislature, who shall be appointed by the
19 leader of the party with the greatest number of
20 seats in the lower house.

21 (D) 1 member of the lower house of the
22 State legislature, who shall be appointed by the
23 leader of the party with the second greatest
24 number of seats in the lower house.

1 (3) SPECIAL RULE FOR STATES WITH UNICAM-
 2 ERAL LEGISLATURE.—In the case of a State with a
 3 unicameral legislature, the Select Committee on Re-
 4 districting for the State under this subsection shall
 5 consist of the following members:

6 (A) 2 members of the State legislature ap-
 7 pointed by the leader of the party with the
 8 greatest number of seats in the legislature.

9 (B) 2 members of the State legislature ap-
 10 pointed by the leader of the party with the sec-
 11 ond greatest number of seats in legislature.

12 (4) DEADLINE.—The State shall meet the re-
 13 quirements of this subsection not later than each
 14 January 15 of a year ending in the numeral zero.

15 **TITLE III—ROLE OF COURTS IN**
 16 **DEVELOPMENT OF REDIS-**
 17 **TRICTING PLANS**

18 **SEC. 301. ENACTMENT OF PLAN DEVELOPED BY 3-JUDGE**
 19 **COURT.**

20 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—If any of the trig-
 21 gering events described in subsection (c) occur with re-
 22 spect to a State—

23 (1) not later than December 15 of the year in
 24 which the triggering event occurs, the United States
 25 District Court for the District of Columbia, acting

1 through a 3-judge court convened pursuant to sec-
2 tion 2284 of title 28, United States Code, shall de-
3 velop and publish the congressional redistricting
4 plan for the State; and

5 (2) the plan developed and published by the
6 Court under this subsection shall be deemed to be
7 enacted on the date on which the Court publishes
8 the plan.

9 (b) PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—

10 (1) CRITERIA.—It is the sense of Congress
11 that, in developing a redistricting plan for a State
12 under this section, the Court should adhere to the
13 same terms and conditions that applied (or that
14 would have applied, as the case may be) to the devel-
15 opment of a plan by the independent redistricting
16 commission of the State under section 203(a).

17 (2) ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND RECORDS OF
18 COMMISSION.—The Court shall have access to any
19 information, data, software, or other records and
20 material that was used (or that would have been
21 used, as the case may be) by the independent redis-
22 tricting commission of the State in carrying out its
23 duties under this Act.

24 (c) TRIGGERING EVENTS DESCRIBED.—The “trig-
25 gering events” described in this subsection are as follows:

1 (1) The failure of the State to establish or des-
2 ignate a nonpartisan agency of the State legislature
3 under section 204(a) prior to the expiration of the
4 deadline set forth in section 204(a)(5).

5 (2) The failure of the State to appoint a Select
6 Committee on Redistricting under section 204(b)
7 prior to the expiration of the deadline set forth in
8 section 204(b)(4).

9 (3) The failure of the Select Committee on Re-
10 districting to approve any selection pool under sec-
11 tion 202 prior to the expiration of the deadline set
12 forth for the approval of the second replacement se-
13 lection pool in section 202(d)(2).

14 (4) The failure of the independent redistricting
15 commission of the State to approve a final redis-
16 tricting plan for the State prior to the expiration of
17 the deadline set forth in section 203(e).

18 **SEC. 302. SPECIAL RULE FOR REDISTRICTING CONDUCTED**

19 **UNDER ORDER OF FEDERAL COURT.**

20 If a Federal court requires a State to conduct redis-
21 tricting subsequent to an apportionment of Representa-
22 tives in the State in order to comply with the Constitution
23 or to enforce the Voting Rights Act of 1965, section 203
24 shall apply with respect to the redistricting, except that
25 the court may revise any of the deadlines set forth in such

1 section if the court determines that a revision is appro-
2 priate in order to provide for a timely enactment of a new
3 redistricting plan for the State.

4 **TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATIVE AND** 5 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

6 **SEC. 401. PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CARRYING OUT RE-** 7 **DISTRICTING.**

8 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS.—Subject to sub-
9 section (d), not later than 30 days after a State receives
10 a State apportionment notice, the Election Assistance
11 Commission shall make a payment to the State in an
12 amount equal to the product of—

13 (1) the number of Representatives to which the
14 State is entitled, as provided under the notice; and

15 (2) \$150,000.

16 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—A State shall use the payment
17 made under this section to establish and operate the
18 State’s independent redistricting commission, to imple-
19 ment the State redistricting plan, and to otherwise carry
20 out Congressional redistricting in the State.

21 (c) NO PAYMENT TO STATES WITH SINGLE MEM-
22 BER.—The Election Assistance Commission shall not
23 make a payment under this section to any State which
24 is not entitled to more than one Representative under its
25 State apportionment notice.

1 (d) REQUIRING SUBMISSION OF SELECTION POOL AS
2 CONDITION OF PAYMENT.—The Election Assistance Com-
3 mission may not make a payment to a State under this
4 section until the State certifies to the Commission that
5 the nonpartisan agency established or designated by a
6 State under section 204(a) has, in accordance with section
7 202(b)(1), submitted a selection pool to the Select Com-
8 mittee on Redistricting for the State established under
9 section 204(b).

10 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
12 necessary for payments under this section.

13 **SEC. 402. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.**

14 (a) CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.—

15 (1) ACTIONS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The At-
16 torney General may bring a civil action in an appro-
17 priate district court for such relief as may be appro-
18 priate to carry out this Act.

19 (2) AVAILABILITY OF PRIVATE RIGHT OF AC-
20 TION.—Any citizen of a State who is aggrieved by
21 the failure of the State redistricting plan which is
22 enacted into law under section 203 to meet the re-
23 quirements for such a plan under this Act may bring
24 a civil action in an appropriate district court for
25 such relief as may be appropriate to remedy the fail-

1 ure, so long as the individual brings the action dur-
2 ing the 45-day period which begins on the date on
3 which the plan is enacted into law.

4 (b) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.—In any action
5 brought forth under this section, the following rules shall
6 apply:

7 (1) The action shall be filed in the United
8 States District Court for the District of Columbia
9 and shall be heard by a 3-judge court convened pur-
10 suant to section 2284 of title 28, United States
11 Code.

12 (2) The 3-judge court shall consolidate actions
13 brought for relief under subsection (b)(1) with re-
14 spect to the same State redistricting plan.

15 (3) A copy of the complaint shall be delivered
16 promptly to the Clerk of the House of Representa-
17 tives and the Secretary of the Senate.

18 (4) A final decision in the action shall be re-
19 viewable only by appeal directly to the Supreme
20 Court of the United States. Such appeal shall be
21 taken by the filing of a notice of appeal within 10
22 days, and the filing of a jurisdictional statement
23 within 30 days, of the entry of the final decision.

24 (5) It shall be the duty of the district court and
25 the Supreme Court of the United States to advance

1 on the docket and to expedite to the greatest pos-
 2 sible extent the disposition of the action and appeal.

3 (c) ATTORNEY'S FEES.—In a civil action under this
 4 section, the court may allow the prevailing party (other
 5 than the United States) reasonable attorney fees, includ-
 6 ing litigation expenses, and costs.

7 (d) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—

8 (1) RIGHTS AND REMEDIES ADDITIONAL TO
 9 OTHER RIGHTS AND REMEDIES.—The rights and
 10 remedies established by this section are in addition
 11 to all other rights and remedies provided by law, and
 12 neither the rights and remedies established by this
 13 section nor any other provision of this Act shall su-
 14 persede, restrict, or limit the application of the Vot-
 15 ing Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.).

16 (2) VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965.—Nothing in
 17 this Act authorizes or requires conduct that is pro-
 18 hibited by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.
 19 10301 et seq.).

20 **SEC. 403. STATE APPORTIONMENT NOTICE DEFINED.**

21 In this Act, the “State apportionment notice” means,
 22 with respect to a State, the notice sent to the State from
 23 the Clerk of the House of Representatives under section
 24 22(b) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the fif-
 25 teenth and subsequent decennial censuses and to provide

1 for an apportionment of Representatives in Congress”, ap-
2 proved June 18, 1929 (2 U.S.C. 2a), of the number of
3 Representatives to which the State is entitled.

4 **SEC. 404. NO EFFECT ON ELECTIONS FOR STATE AND**
5 **LOCAL OFFICE.**

6 Nothing in this Act or in any amendment made by
7 this Act may be construed to affect the manner in which
8 a State carries out elections for State or local office, in-
9 cluding the process by which a State establishes the dis-
10 tricts used in such elections.

11 **SEC. 405. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

12 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
13 apply with respect to redistricting carried out pursuant to
14 the decennial census conducted during 2020 or any suc-
15 ceeding decennial census.

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