

AN ACT relating to redistricting.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 5 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

*As used in Sections 1 to 4 of this Act:*

*(1) "Committee" means the Kentucky Committee on Legislative Redistricting created in Section 2 of this Act;*

*(2) "Population" means the most recent United States Census data collected under Pub. L. No. 94-171; and*

*(3) "Redistricting" means the drawing of boundary lines for legislative districts.*

➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 5 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

*(1) The Kentucky Committee on Legislative Redistricting is hereby established. The membership of the committee shall be composed of one (1) faculty member from each of the public universities of the Commonwealth who shall be appointed by the president of each public university of the Commonwealth. Each committee member shall be:*

*(a) The chair of the geography department of the public university or another member of the geography faculty who has expertise in Kentucky geography;*

*or*

*(b) A professor of law, political science, or a faculty member with expertise and extensive knowledge and experience related to redistricting law or demographic data, statistics, and characteristics regarding Kentucky's population.*

*(2) Members of the committee shall be appointed no later than July 1, 2020, and thereafter members shall be appointed or reappointed no later than July 1 every ten (10) years thereafter. The president of each public university of the*

Commonwealth shall fill a vacancy that occurs from a prior appointment of a member of the faculty from his or her university, including cases in which a faculty member resigns from his or her position with the university at which he or she was employed.

(3) The committee shall be attached to the Legislative Research Commission for administrative and budgetary purposes.

(4) Members of the committee shall receive per diem compensation as determined by the Legislative Research Commission.

(5) The committee may:

(a) Contract for such expert services as may be necessary to carry out its duties;

(b) Purchase equipment and computer software as may be necessary to carry out its duties;

(c) Hold public hearings in any county in the Commonwealth to obtain information relevant to redistricting;

(d) Hire administrative staff to assist in its duties; and

(e) Consult with staff of the Legislative Research Commission in implementing its duties.

(6) The initial meeting of the committee shall take place at the state capitol in Frankfort no later than September 1, 2020, and during subsequent redistricting cycles no later than September 1 every ten (10) years thereafter. At the initial meeting, the members of the committee shall select from among the members a chair who shall preside over meetings and direct the work of the committee. The committee shall meet at least once each month until the submission of redistricting plans to the Legislative Research Commission under Section 4 of this Act.

(7) A majority of the committee shall be required in order to approve and submit redistricting plans under Section 3 of this Act. A meeting of the committee shall

not be held without notice to all members of the committee.

(8) All records of the committee shall be considered open records in accordance with KRS 61.870 to 61.884, and all records and other information generated by the committee shall be made available to the public on the Web site established in KRS 7.505.

(9) All meetings of the committee shall be considered open meetings in accordance with KRS 61.805 to 61.850.

➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 5 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) The duties of the committee shall include the development of plans for the redistricting of state legislative districts and United States Congressional districts.

(2) The committee shall develop redistricting plans based on population and develop not less than one (1) plan for each of the following:

(a) State legislative districts composed of thirty-eight (38) senatorial districts and one hundred (100) representative districts; and

(b) United States Congressional districts based on the number of representatives allocated to the Commonwealth.

(3) The standards for creating districts for the election of members of the General Assembly shall be in accordance with the Constitution of the United States of America, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and other relevant federal law, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and other relevant state laws, and be consistent with the following principles:

(a) To form senatorial and representative districts with minimal percentages of deviation in population;

(b) To minimize variations from existing district lines insofar as it is feasible;

(c) To create districts that are as compact in size as feasible;

(d) To create districts composed of whole counties and communities insofar as

it is feasible while recognizing that some counties and communities may of necessity be divided to achieve the required equality in population;

(e) To recognize and consider patterns of geography, social interaction, trade, political ties, and common interest among counties and communities of the Commonwealth; and

(f) Other traditional redistricting principles.

(4) The standard for creating United States Congressional districts shall be in accordance with the Constitution of the United States of America and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. secs. 1973 to 1973q, and other relevant federal law, and be consistent with the following principles:

(a) To form United States Congressional districts with variation in population so minimal as to comply with the principle of "one person, one vote";

(b) To minimize variations from existing district lines insofar as it is feasible;

(c) To create districts that are as compact in size as feasible;

(d) To create districts composed of whole counties and communities insofar as it is feasible while recognizing that some counties and communities may of necessity be divided to achieve the required equality in population; and

(e) To recognize and consider patterns of geography, social interaction, trade, political ties, and common interest among counties and communities of the Commonwealth.

(5) The committee shall develop separate redistricting legislation for state legislative districts and for United States Congressional districts.

➔SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 5 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) On or before October 15, 2021, and thereafter no later than October 15 of each year following the decennial census, the committee shall prepare not fewer than one (1) plan based on population for the redistricting of each of the following:

- (a) Not fewer than one (1) plan concerning state legislative districts, dividing the Commonwealth into thirty-eight (38) senatorial districts and one hundred (100) representative districts; and
- (b) Not fewer than one (1) plan dividing the Commonwealth into the number of United States Congressional districts allocated to the Commonwealth.
- (2) The committee shall present the redistricting plan as set forth in subsection (1) of this section to the Legislative Research Commission no later than October 15, 2021, and thereafter no later than October 15 of each year following the decennial census.
- (3) The Legislative Research Commission shall refer the redistricting legislation to the Interim Joint Committee on State Government for discussion at its October and November meetings, and the Interim Joint Committee on State Government may hold special meetings as deemed necessary. The Interim Joint Committee on State Government may recommend enactment or rejection of the committee's redistricting plan, but shall not recommend alteration or amendment to the proposed legislation except for proposed technical amendments which do not alter or amend the substance of the plans.
- (4) During the Regular Session of the General Assembly following the review of the Interim Joint Committee on State Government or an Extraordinary Session called by the Governor for the purposes of redistricting following the review of the Interim Joint Committee on State Government, the General Assembly shall consider the committee's redistricting plan for enactment into law. The General Assembly may enact or reject the committee's redistricting plan, but may not alter or amend the plan except for technical amendments which do not alter or amend the substance of the legislation.
- (5) The Speaker of the House shall introduce in the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall introduce in the Senate the redistricting

legislation on the first day of the Regular Session of the General Assembly or an Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly following the committee's submission of its redistricting plan. The Speaker of the House shall sponsor the legislation in the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall sponsor the legislation in the Senate. If the Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate does not introduce redistricting legislation as submitted by the committee, the legislation shall be introduced and sponsored by the minority floor leader of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively. The Committee on Committees of both the House of Representatives and the Senate shall refer the redistricting legislation to the House Standing Committee on State Government and the Senate Standing Committee on State and Local Government, respectively.

(6) The General Assembly shall separately consider enactment or rejection of the committee's redistricting plan legislation for state legislative districts and for United States Congressional districts.

(7) If the General Assembly does not enact the redistricting plan legislation of the committee for state legislative districts or United States Congressional districts by the first Tuesday after the fifth Monday of the year following the committee's submission of the plan to the Legislative Research Commission, the General Assembly shall return the redistricting legislation to the committee and request development of a new plan for the redistricting of state legislative districts or United States Congressional districts in accordance with Section 3 of this Act. The General Assembly shall communicate to the committee its reasons for not enacting redistricting legislation. The committee may incorporate changes requested by the General Assembly in drafting any new redistricting plan, but shall not be required to make the changes requested. The committee shall submit a new redistricting plan within five (5) working days of receipt of

communications from the General Assembly. The committee shall submit the redistricting plan to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate, who shall forward the legislation to the Committee on Committees of their respective chambers. The Committee on Committees in each chamber shall refer the redistricting legislation only to the committees specified in subsection (5) of this section. The committees shall recommend enactment of the committee's redistricting plan legislation as presented and shall not alter or amend the legislation, except for technical amendments which do not alter or amend the substance of the legislation. The General Assembly shall then enact the redistricting legislation as presented and shall not alter or amend the legislation except for technical amendments which do not alter or amend the substance of the legislation.

(8) The filing deadline for the primary for the year following the committee's submission of redistricting legislation to the Legislative Research Committee shall be seven (7) calendar days following the enactment of redistricting legislation by the General Assembly or the statutory deadline, whichever is later.