

AN ACT relating to election districts.

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) "Commission" means the Legislative Advisory Reapportionment and Redistricting Commission;

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

(3) "Reapportionment" means the division of a given number of elected seats among established political subdivisions in accordance with an existing plan or formula;
and

(4) "Redistricting" means the drawing of boundary lines for election districts in order to achieve, as nearly as possible, equal population among the election districts.

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

(1) The Legislative Advisory Reapportionment and Redistricting Commission is hereby created, consisting of eleven (11) members. Six (6) members of the commission shall be elected, one (1) from each of the six (6) United States congressional districts. The other members of the commission shall be as follows:

(a) One (1) member appointed by the President of the Senate;

(b) One (1) member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(c) One (1) member appointed by the Minority Leadership in the Senate;

(d) One (1) member appointed by the Minority Leadership in the House of Representatives; and

(e) The Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court or the Chief Justice's

designee.

- (2) Beginning in 2020 and every ten (10) years thereafter, the members of the commission from the six (6) congressional districts shall be elected in accordance with the procedures set forth in KRS Chapter 118A at the regular election in even-numbered years. The names of candidates shall be placed on the voting machine in a separate column or columns or in a separate line or lines and identified by the words "Ballot for Legislative Advisory Reapportionment and Redistricting Commission." The term of office of members of the commission shall begin upon the first day of January of the year succeeding their election, and no reference shall be made to political affiliation in the election of the members of the commission. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall appoint a new member to fill any vacancy which may occur between election cycles from the congressional district in which there is a vacancy.
- (3) Appointed members of the commission shall first be appointed no later than December 1, 2020, and thereafter members shall be appointed decennially no later than December 1 of each decennial year. The appointing authority of each commission member as established in subsection (1) of this section shall fill any vacancy.
- (4) Appointed or elected members of the commission shall hold office for a term of four (4) years.
- (5) The commission shall be attached to the Legislative Research Commission for administrative and budgetary purposes.
- (6) Members of the commission shall receive per diem compensation as determined by the Legislative Research Commission.
- (7) The chair of the commission shall be elected by the membership of the commission.
- (8) The commission shall have the authority to:

- (a) Contract for such expert services as may be necessary to carry out its duties;
 - (b) With approval of the Legislative Research Commission, hold public hearings in any town in the Commonwealth to obtain information relevant to reapportionment and redistricting of the General Assembly. Public hearings for all other apportionment and redistricting duties shall be held in the state capital; and
 - (c) Hire administrative staff to assist in its duties.
- (9) The commission shall be subject to the provisions of KRS 7.505, 61.800 to 61.850, and 61.870 to 61.884.

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

- (1) The duties of the commission shall include the development of a proposal for the reapportionment and redistricting of state legislative districts and United States congressional districts. The commission shall also be responsible for developing a proposal for reapportionment and redistricting of the Supreme Court districts in the Commonwealth when called upon to do so.
- (2) The commission shall reapportion and redistrict districts based on population and shall divide the state into:
- (a) State legislative districts composed of thirty-eight (38) senatorial districts and one hundred (100) representative districts;
 - (b) Seven (7) Supreme Court districts; and
 - (c) United States congressional districts based on the number of representatives allocated to the Commonwealth.
- (3) The standard for creating districts for the election of members to the General Assembly shall be in accordance with Section 33 of the Constitution of Kentucky and consistent with the following policies insofar as practicable:
- (a) To form representative and senatorial districts with minimum percentages

of deviation;

(b) To preserve existing political subdivision lines;

(c) To recognize and maintain patterns of geography, social interaction, trade, political ties, and common interest;

(d) To create compact districts; and

(e) To consider incumbencies.

(4) The standard for creating districts for the election of members to the United States Congress shall be in accordance with Article 1 of the United States Constitution, Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and 52 U.S.C. secs. 10301 to 10314 as amended, and consistent with the following policies insofar as practicable:

(a) To form congressional districts with minimum percentages of deviation to reflect the concept of "one person one vote";

(b) To create districts composed of contiguous geography;

(c) To preserve communities of interest where such efforts do not violate other stated criteria;

(d) To use counties as district building blocks where possible, and to the extent consistent with other aspects of these criteria, recognizing that some counties may of necessity be split in order to achieve stated equality of population goals;

(e) To preserve cores of existing districts where such efforts are consistent with and do not violate the other stated criteria; and

(f) To create compact districts.

(5) The standard for creating districts for the election of members to the Supreme Court of Kentucky shall be in accordance with Section 110 of the Constitution of Kentucky.

➔SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 5 IS CREATED TO

READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) On or before November 1 of the year following the decennial census, the commission shall prepare a tentative proposal based on population for the reapportionment and redistricting of:

 - (a) The House of Representatives into one hundred (100) districts;
 - (b) The Senate into thirty-eight (38) districts; and
 - (c) United States congressional districts as allocated to the Commonwealth.
- (2) The commission shall present the reapportionment and redistricting proposals as set forth in subsection (1) of this section to the Legislative Research Commission no later than the first Monday in November of the year following the decennial census.
- (3) The Legislative Research Commission shall refer the reapportionment and redistricting proposals to the Interim Joint Committee on State Government for its review and consideration of the reapportionment and redistricting proposals at its November meeting.
- (4) During the next Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly or during an Extraordinary Session following the review of the Interim Joint Committee on State Government, the General Assembly shall consider the commission's reapportionment and redistricting proposals for enactment into law.