

1 AN ACT relating to redistricting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 *or*

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

25 *(2) Members of the committee shall be appointed no later than July 1, 2030, and*  
26 *thereafter members shall be appointed or reappointed no later than July 1 of*  
27 *each year in which the decennial census is taken. The president of each public*

- 1 university of the Commonwealth shall fill a vacancy that occurs from a prior  
2 appointment of a member of the faculty from his or her university, including  
3 cases in which a faculty member resigns from his or her position with the  
4 university at which he or she was employed.
- 5 (3) The committee shall be attached to the Legislative Research Commission for  
6 administrative and budgetary purposes.
- 7 (4) Members of the committee shall receive per diem compensation as determined by  
8 the Legislative Research Commission.
- 9 (5) The committee shall have the authority to:
- 10 (a) Contract for such expert services as may be necessary to carry out its duties;  
11 (b) Purchase equipment and computer software as may be necessary to carry  
12 out its duties;  
13 (c) Hold public hearings in any county in the Commonwealth to obtain  
14 information relevant to redistricting;  
15 (d) Hire administrative staff to assist in its duties; and  
16 (e) Consult with staff of the Legislative Research Commission in implementing  
17 its duties.
- 18 (6) The initial meeting of the committee shall take place at the State Capitol in  
19 Frankfort no later than September 1, 2030, and during subsequent redistricting  
20 cycles no later than September 1 of each year in which the decennial census is  
21 taken. At the initial meeting, the members of the committee shall select from  
22 among the members a chair who shall preside over meetings and direct the work  
23 of the committee. The committee shall meet at least once each month until the  
24 submission of redistricting plans to the Legislative Research Commission under  
25 Section 4 of this Act.
- 26 (7) A majority of the committee shall be required in order to approve and submit  
27 redistricting plans under Section 3 and 4 of this Act. A meeting of the committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (f) Other traditional redistricting principles.

7 (4) The standard for creating United States congressional districts shall be in  
 8 accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Voting Rights Act of  
 9 1965, as amended, and other relevant federal law, and be consistent with the  
 10 following principles:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (1) On or before October 15, 2031, and thereafter no later than October 15 of each  
 26 year following the decennial census, the committee shall prepare not less than  
 27 one (1) plan based on population for the redistricting of each of the following:

- 1        (a) Not less than one (1) plan concerning state legislative districts, dividing the  
2                Commonwealth into thirty-eight (38) senatorial districts and one hundred  
3                (100) representative districts; and
- 4        (b) Not less than one (1) plan dividing the Commonwealth into the number of  
5                United States congressional districts allocated to the Commonwealth.
- 6        (2) The committee shall present the redistricting plan as set forth in subsection (1) of  
7                this section to the Legislative Research Commission no later than October 15,  
8                2031, and thereafter no later than October 15 of each year following the  
9                decennial census.
- 10       (3) The Legislative Research Commission shall refer the redistricting legislation to  
11               the Interim Joint Committee on State Government for discussion at its October  
12               and November meetings, and the Interim Joint Committee on State Government  
13               may hold special meetings as deemed necessary. The Interim Joint Committee on  
14               State Government may recommend enactment or rejection of the committee's  
15               redistricting plan, but shall not recommend alteration or amendment to the  
16               proposed legislation, except for proposed technical amendments which do not  
17               alter or amend the substance of the plans.
- 18       (4) During the Regular Session of the General Assembly following the review of the  
19               Interim Joint Committee on State Government, or during an Extraordinary  
20               Session called by the Governor for the purposes of redistricting following the  
21               review of the Interim Joint Committee on State Government, the General  
22               Assembly shall consider the committee's redistricting plan for enactment into  
23               law. The General Assembly may enact or reject the committee's redistricting plan,  
24               but may not alter or amend the plan, except for technical amendments which do  
25               not alter or amend the substance of the legislation.
- 26       (5) The Speaker of the House shall introduce in the House of Representatives and  
27               the President of the Senate shall introduce in the Senate the redistricting

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

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

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

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

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