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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2327 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY GREGORY, DeLUCA, TOBASH, THOMAS, RIGBY, STEPHENS,  
MUSTELLO, MEHAFFIE, DeLISSIO AND SOLOMON, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

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AN ACT

1 Providing for the establishment, conduct and composition of the  
2 Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission, for  
3 adoption of congressional district maps, for prioritized  
4 redistricting criteria, for failure to adopt final  
5 congressional district map and for judicial review.

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7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 CHAPTER 1

10 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

11 Section 101. Short title.

12 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Fair  
13 Congressional Redistricting Act.

14 Section 102. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
16 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Application." An application for a position as a  
19 commissioner on the Independent Congressional Redistricting  
20 Commission.

21 "Commission." The Independent Congressional Redistricting  
22 Commission established under section 301(a).

23 "Secretary." The Secretary of the Commonwealth.

24 CHAPTER 3

25 CONGRESSIONAL INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

26 Section 301. Establishment and conduct of commission.

27 (a) Establishment.--In each year ending in zero, an  
28 Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission shall be  
29 established for the purpose of drawing the congressional  
30 district maps for this Commonwealth.

1 (b) Conduct.--The commission shall be convened no later  
2 than May 1 in each year ending in one. The commission shall have  
3 the following duties:

4 (1) Conduct an open and transparent process enabling  
5 full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of  
6 congressional district maps.

7 (2) Draw congressional district maps according to the  
8 redistricting criteria specified in this act.

9 (3) Conduct itself with integrity and fairness.

10 Section 302. Composition of commission.

11 (a) Composition.--The commission shall consist of the  
12 following commissioners:

13 (1) Five commissioners who are registered with the  
14 largest political party in this Commonwealth.

15 (2) Five commissioners who are registered with the  
16 second-largest political party in this Commonwealth.

17 (3) Five commissioners who are not registered with the  
18 largest political party or second-largest political party in  
19 this Commonwealth.

20 (b) Diversity.--The commission as a whole shall reflect the  
21 Commonwealth's geographic and demographic diversity, including,  
22 but not limited to, racial, ethnic and gender diversity, to the  
23 greatest extent practicable.

24 Section 303. Application process.

25 (a) Administration.--The secretary shall administer an  
26 application process for individuals seeking appointment to the  
27 commission.

28 (b) Process.--The following shall apply:

29 (1) The application period shall begin on November 15 in  
30 each year ending in zero and end on January 15 in each year

1 ending in one.

2 (2) The secretary shall design the application to obtain  
3 all information necessary to determine each applicant's  
4 qualifications, party registration, relevant experiences,  
5 skills and commitments, including experiences with community  
6 leadership, skills in strategic planning and commitments to  
7 compromise and fairness. If the documentation submitted by an  
8 applicant is insufficient to determine whether the applicant  
9 is eligible to serve on the commission, the applicant shall  
10 be deemed ineligible to serve on the commission.

11 (3) Beginning September 1 in each year ending in zero  
12 and ending on January 15 in each year ending in one, the  
13 secretary shall adequately provide public notice of the  
14 application process, including, but not limited to, the  
15 following:

16 (i) The application period, commissioner  
17 qualifications and selection process in the 10 most  
18 prominent print or online media outlets and in at least  
19 one prominent print publication in each of the 67  
20 counties in this Commonwealth as determined by  
21 circulation or online readership.

22 (ii) The application period, commissioner  
23 qualifications and the selection process on the home page  
24 of all publicly accessible Commonwealth agency Internet  
25 websites.

26 (iii) The application period, commissioner  
27 qualifications and the selection process on local  
28 television stations during local news broadcasts in this  
29 Commonwealth.

30 (iv) The application period, commissioner

1 qualifications and the selection process in media outlets  
2 that serve specific racial and ethnic communities in this  
3 Commonwealth.

4 (4) The secretary shall continue to accept applications  
5 until all of the following are satisfied:

6 (i) At least 60 individuals who are registered with  
7 the largest political party in this Commonwealth have  
8 applied.

9 (ii) At least 60 individuals who are registered with  
10 the second-largest political party in this Commonwealth  
11 have applied.

12 (iii) At least 60 individuals who are not registered  
13 with the largest political party or second-largest  
14 political party in this Commonwealth have applied.

15 (5) If between November 15 and January 15 or the close  
16 of the application period, the secretary has not received at  
17 least 60 applications from the applicants specified under  
18 paragraph (4) (i), (ii) and (iii), the secretary shall  
19 continue to accept applications until all of the following  
20 are satisfied:

21 (i) At least 60 individuals who are registered with  
22 the largest political party in this Commonwealth have  
23 applied.

24 (ii) At least 60 individuals who are registered with  
25 the second-largest political party in this Commonwealth  
26 have applied.

27 (iii) At least 60 individuals who are not registered  
28 with the largest political party or second-largest  
29 political party in this Commonwealth have applied.

30 (c) Required disclosures.--

1 (1) An applicant must disclose, under the penalty of  
2 perjury, the following information pertaining to the six  
3 years before the submission of an application:

4 (i) Party registration.

5 (ii) Relevant leadership and community experiences.

6 (iii) All political contributions over \$250 to  
7 Federal, State or municipal candidates or to any  
8 committee supporting or opposing the election of  
9 candidates to Federal, State or municipal office.

10 (iv) Contractual and other financial interests with  
11 the Commonwealth and with any other government-related  
12 entity.

13 (2) Information disclosed under paragraph (1) shall be  
14 made publicly available on the commission's publicly  
15 accessible Internet website under section 307(c).

16 Section 304. Qualifications and terms of commissioners.

17 (a) Qualifications.--The following shall apply:

18 (1) An individual shall be eligible to serve as a  
19 commissioner if, during the three years before submission of  
20 an application, the individual has met all of the following  
21 criteria:

22 (i) The individual has been continuously registered  
23 as a voter in this Commonwealth.

24 (ii) The individual has voted in one of the last  
25 three Statewide elections.

26 (iii) The individual has been continuously  
27 registered to vote in this Commonwealth and is  
28 unaffiliated with a political party in this Commonwealth  
29 or the individual has been continuously registered with  
30 any of the following:

1 (A) The largest political party in this  
2 Commonwealth.

3 (B) The second-largest political party in this  
4 Commonwealth.

5 (C) A political party that is not the largest  
6 political party or second-largest political party in  
7 this Commonwealth.

8 (2) An individual may not serve as a commissioner if,  
9 during the six years before submission of an application, the  
10 individual:

11 (i) has been a candidate for or has been elected or  
12 appointed to any Federal, State, county or first class or  
13 second class city office or judgeship;

14 (ii) has served as an elected or appointed member of  
15 the Federal, State or county committee of a political  
16 party;

17 (iii) has served as an officer, employee or paid  
18 consultant to a political party, a political action  
19 committee or a campaign committee of a candidate for  
20 Federal or State public office; or

21 (iv) has been registered as a lobbyist as defined in  
22 65 Pa.C.S. § 13A03 (relating to definitions) or a  
23 lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995  
24 (Public Law 104-65, 2 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq.).

25 (3) Any of the following may not serve as a  
26 commissioner:

27 (i) A staff member of, consultant to, contractor for  
28 or any individual with an immediate family relationship  
29 with an elected or appointed official or judge  
30 disqualified under paragraph (2) (i).

- 1 (ii) A member of Congress.
- 2 (iii) A member of the General Assembly.
- 3 (iv) An employee of the secretary.

4 (b) Terms.--A commissioner's term shall expire upon the  
5 appointment of the succeeding commission.

6 Section 305. Selection and appointment of commissioners.

7 (a) Selection.--The following shall apply:

8 (1) From the applications received, the secretary shall  
9 select 120 applicants who meet the requirements under this  
10 act to serve on the commission by February 15 of each year  
11 ending in one. The secretary shall give due consideration to  
12 promoting the racial, ethnic, demographic and gender  
13 diversity of the selected applicants.

14 (2) The secretary shall divide the 120 applicants  
15 selected under paragraph (1) into the following categories:

16 (i) Forty applicants who are registered with the  
17 largest political party in this Commonwealth.

18 (ii) Forty applicants who are registered with the  
19 second-largest political party in this Commonwealth.

20 (iii) Forty applicants who are not registered with  
21 the largest political party or second-largest political  
22 party in this Commonwealth.

23 (3) After selecting and dividing the applicants under  
24 paragraphs (1) and (2), the secretary shall transmit their  
25 applications to the chair and minority chair of the State  
26 Government Committee of the Senate and the chair and minority  
27 chair of the State Government Committee of the House of  
28 Representatives. Upon receipt of the applications, the chair  
29 and minority chair the State Government Committee of the  
30 Senate and the chair and minority chair of the State



1 Government Committee of the House of Representatives shall  
2 reduce each category of applicants under paragraph (2) by  
3 five applicants for a total of 60 reductions by March 1 of  
4 each year ending in one. No more than one chair or minority  
5 chair of the State Government Committee of the Senate or the  
6 State Government Committee of the House of Representatives  
7 may remove an individual applicant from consideration. In  
8 reducing the size of each category of applicants under  
9 paragraph (2), the chair and minority chair of the State  
10 Government Committee of the Senate and the chair and minority  
11 chair of the State Government Committee of the House of  
12 Representatives shall give due consideration to promoting the  
13 racial, ethnic, demographic and gender diversity of the  
14 commission.

15 (b) Appointments.--The following shall apply:

16 (1) From the applicants remaining after the reduction of  
17 applicants under subsection (a), the Majority Leader and  
18 Minority Leader of the Senate and the Majority Leader and  
19 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall each  
20 appoint one commissioner who belongs to the appointer's  
21 political party by April 1 of each year ending in one. In  
22 making the appointments, the Majority Leader and Minority  
23 Leader of the Senate and the Majority Leader and Minority  
24 Leader of the House of Representatives shall give due  
25 consideration to promoting the overall racial, ethnic,  
26 demographic and gender diversity of the commission.

27 (2) No later than April 7 of each year ending in one  
28 after the appointments are made under paragraph (1), the  
29 secretary shall, at a public meeting, randomly appoint the  
30 following:

1 (i) One commissioner who is registered with the  
2 largest political party in this Commonwealth.

3 (ii) One commissioner who is registered with the  
4 second-largest political party in this Commonwealth.

5 (iii) Three commissioners who are not registered  
6 with the largest political party or second-largest  
7 political party in this Commonwealth.

8 (3) After the appointments are made under paragraph (2),  
9 the nine commissioners appointed shall meet publicly,  
10 promptly review the remaining applications and by majority  
11 vote, including the vote of at least one commissioner  
12 appointed from each category of applicants under subsection  
13 (a)(2), appoint the final six commissioners. The final six  
14 commissioners shall consist of two commissioners appointed  
15 from each category of applicants under subsection (a)(2). The  
16 final six commissioners shall be appointed in a manner that  
17 ensures that the commission is as representative of the  
18 Commonwealth's geographic, racial, gender, ethnic and other  
19 demographic diversity as possible and possesses the relevant  
20 skills to perform the duties specified under this act.

21 Section 306. Removal of commissioners and vacancies.

22 (a) Removal.--

23 (1) A commissioner may be removed by a majority vote of  
24 the other commissioners, comprised of no less than the  
25 following:

26 (i) One commissioner who is registered with the  
27 largest political party in this Commonwealth.

28 (ii) One commissioner who is registered with the  
29 second-largest political party in this Commonwealth.

30 (iii) One commissioner who is not registered with

1 the largest political party or the second-largest  
2 political party in this Commonwealth.

3 (2) A commissioner may be removed after the commissioner  
4 receives proper notice and an opportunity to be heard if the  
5 commissioner:

6 (i) exhibits a substantial neglect of duty or gross  
7 misconduct or is otherwise unable to discharge the  
8 commissioner's duties; or

9 (ii) missed three consecutive meetings at which a  
10 vote is taken unless the absence is due to serious  
11 illness of the commissioner or death of the  
12 commissioner's immediate family member.

13 (3) Any vote to remove a commissioner under paragraph  
14 (1) shall be in accordance with section 307(a).

15 (4) As used in this subsection, the term "substantial  
16 neglect of duty" means any conduct that demonstrates a  
17 commissioner's inability to act with integrity and fairness,  
18 including the failure to comply with the communications  
19 disclosure required specified under section 307(d).

20 (b) Vacancies.--The commission shall fill any vacancy  
21 created under subsection (a) by appointing a qualified  
22 individual who is willing to serve from the applicants selected  
23 under 305(a)(1) and the same category of applicants under  
24 section 305(a)(2) that the commissioner who created the vacancy  
25 was appointed from before the vacancy was created.

26 Section 307. Actions by commission.

27 (a) Actions.--Actions by the commission shall be in a public  
28 meeting by the affirmative vote of no less than nine  
29 commissioners, including the following:

30 (1) At least two commissioners registered with the

1 largest political party in this Commonwealth.

2 (2) At least two commissioners registered with the  
3 second-largest political party in this Commonwealth.

4 (3) At least two commissioners who are not registered  
5 with the largest political party or second-largest political  
6 party in this Commonwealth.

7 (b) Chair and vice chair.--At the first meeting of the full  
8 commission, the commissioners shall select one of the  
9 commissioners to serve as a chair and one of the commissioners  
10 to serve as a vice chair. The chair and vice chair may not be  
11 registered with the same political party.

12 (c) Internet website.--

13 (1) No later than September 1 of each year ending in  
14 zero, the secretary shall establish a publicly accessible  
15 Internet website for the commission. Once the commissioners  
16 have been appointed under section 305 and a web manager has  
17 been hired by the secretary, the commission shall assume  
18 responsibility for managing and updating the Internet  
19 website.

20 (2) The Internet website shall include, but not be  
21 limited to, all of the following information:

22 (i) A description of the role of the commission.

23 (ii) Timely information about the application  
24 process and public bidding process.

25 (iii) Timely information about the time, place and  
26 purpose of commission meetings.

27 (iv) A portal for the submission of proposed  
28 congressional district maps.

29 (v) All congressional district maps drawn by the  
30 commission or submitted by the public.

1           (vi) The underlying data used to create or evaluate  
2 maps in a format easily usable for analysis.

3           (vii) Precinct-level shapefiles and census block  
4 equivalency.

5           (viii) Precinct-level results from Statewide primary  
6 and general elections for the past 10 years.

7           (ix) All reports analyzing the maps and transcripts  
8 of the commission.

9           (x) A video archive of all meetings of the  
10 commission.

11           (3) The commission shall post any data regarding  
12 congressional redistricting on the publicly accessible  
13 Internet website at the same time it is made available to the  
14 commission and the data shall be considered public record as  
15 defined in section 102 of the act of February 14, 2008  
16 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law.

17           (d) Communications.--

18           (1) The commission shall be considered a public body  
19 subject to 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings), the  
20 Right-to-Know Law and mileage reimbursement as provided by  
21 the laws of this Commonwealth.

22           (2) Except for documents or communications subject to  
23 attorney-client privilege, documents or communications  
24 created or received by a commissioner, a commission staff  
25 member or a consultant to the commission as a part of the  
26 commission's duties under this act shall not be exempt by any  
27 privilege.

28           (3) Records pertaining to a commission's action on a  
29 preliminary congressional district map or the analysis of a  
30 preliminary congressional district map shall be publicly

1 disclosed on the commission's publicly accessible Internet  
2 website under subsection (c) as soon as practicable after the  
3 records are created.

4 (4) A commissioner, commission staff member or  
5 consultant to the commissioner may not communicate with any  
6 outside persons attempting to influence the congressional  
7 district map drawing process outside of public meetings and  
8 public comment periods. To the extent that a commissioner,  
9 commission staff member or consultant to the commissioner  
10 receives a communication described under this paragraph, the  
11 communication shall be publicly disclosed on the commission's  
12 publicly accessible Internet website under subsection (c) as  
13 soon as practicable after the communication is received.

14 (e) Public hearings.--The following shall apply:

15 (1) To identify communities of interest and obtain other  
16 information relevant to the drawing of congressional  
17 districts, the commission shall seek public input. Before any  
18 proposed congressional district maps are drawn, the  
19 commission shall hold no less than nine public hearings  
20 across this Commonwealth to solicit testimony from a  
21 representative cross-section of this Commonwealth's  
22 population. The commission shall provide at least 14 days'  
23 notice before a public hearing is held as specified under  
24 paragraph (2).

25 (2) The commission shall adequately advertise a public  
26 hearing and schedule a public hearing in a manner to  
27 encourage attendance, including scheduling the public hearing  
28 outside of regular work hours and using technology that  
29 allows for real-time, virtual participation and feedback in  
30 the public hearing. The commission shall record a public

1 hearing and post a video of the public hearing on the  
2 commission's publicly accessible Internet website under  
3 section 307(c) within three days of the public hearing.

4 (f) Public participation.--

5 (1) The commission shall provide a meaningful  
6 opportunity for all persons to participate in the  
7 congressional redistricting process, including, but not  
8 limited to, the following:

9 (i) Issuing the notice under subsection (e)(1) in  
10 multiple languages.

11 (ii) Ensuring that adequate translation services are  
12 available at public hearings.

13 (iii) Complying with all Federal and State law  
14 protections for individuals with disabilities.

15 (2) If the initial public input during the commission's  
16 public hearings does not appear to represent the diversity of  
17 this Commonwealth, the commission shall take remedial steps,  
18 including, but not limited to, conducting additional  
19 outreach, holding additional public hearings and identifying  
20 underrepresented communities.

21 Section 308. Adoption of congressional district maps.

22 (a) Public submissions.--During the proposed congressional  
23 district map drawing process, any member of the public may  
24 submit maps, portions of maps or other comments for  
25 consideration by the commission. Submissions under this  
26 subsection shall be made publicly available on the commission's  
27 publicly accessible Internet website under section 307(c) and  
28 open to comment.

29 (b) Proposed and final maps.--The following shall apply:

30 (1) The commission shall release a proposed

1 congressional district map and display the proposed  
2 congressional district map for a minimum of 30 days for  
3 public comment in a manner designed to achieve the widest  
4 public access reasonably possible before acting to approve a  
5 final congressional district map.

6 (2) The commission shall hold no fewer than six public  
7 hearings in different regions of this Commonwealth after the  
8 release of a proposed congressional district map under  
9 paragraph (1) and accept comments on the commission's  
10 publicly accessible Internet website under section 307(c) and  
11 through paper submissions. The commission may not hold more  
12 than one hearing in a congressional district.

13 (3) Upon releasing a proposed congressional district map  
14 under paragraph (1), the commission shall release population  
15 data, geographic data, election data and any other data used  
16 to create or evaluate the proposed congressional district  
17 map.

18 (4) Before approving a final congressional district map,  
19 the commission must make the final congressional district map  
20 available for public view and comment for at least seven  
21 days. No later than October 15 of each year ending in one,  
22 the commission shall act to approve a final congressional  
23 district map. Upon approval, the commission shall certify the  
24 final congressional district map to the secretary.

25 (5) The commission shall release with a proposed  
26 congressional district map and the final congressional  
27 district map written evaluations that measure the maps  
28 against external metrics. The metrics shall include the  
29 following information:

30 (i) The impact of the congressional district maps on



1 the ability of racial or language minorities to elect  
2 candidates of choice.

3 (ii) Measures of partisan fairness using multiple  
4 accepted methodologies.

5 (iii) The degree to which the congressional district  
6 maps preserve or divide communities of interest and  
7 counties.

8 Section 309. Prioritized redistricting criteria.

9 (a) Map drawing criteria.--The commission shall establish  
10 single-member congressional districts using the following  
11 criteria set forth in the following order of priority:

12 (1) Congressional districts shall comply with the  
13 Constitution of the United States and all applicable Federal  
14 laws.

15 (2) Congressional districts shall comply with the  
16 Constitution of Pennsylvania.

17 (3) Congressional districts shall be geographically  
18 contiguous.

19 (4) Congressional districts shall provide racial and  
20 language minorities with an equal opportunity to participate  
21 in the political process and shall not dilute or diminish  
22 their ability to elect candidates of choice by themselves or  
23 in a coalition with others.

24 (5) Congressional districts shall respect the integrity  
25 of communities of interest to the extent practicable. Absent  
26 compelling evidence to the contrary, respecting communities  
27 of interest shall include minimizing county, city, borough  
28 and township boundary splits to the extent practicable. As  
29 used in this paragraph, the term "community of interest"  
30 shall not include common relationships with political parties

1 or political candidates.

2 (b) Prohibitions.--The commission shall comply with all of  
3 the following when drawing a final congressional district map:

4 (1) A final congressional district map shall not, when  
5 considered on a Statewide basis, unduly favor or disfavor any  
6 political party, candidate or incumbent.

7 (2) A congressional district in a final congressional  
8 district map shall not dilute or diminish the ability of  
9 racial and language minorities to elect candidates of their  
10 choice by themselves or in a coalition with others.

11 (3) The commission shall not consider the addresses of  
12 incumbent members of Congress in the drawing of a final  
13 congressional district map and may only consider election  
14 data after the nine hearings soliciting public input on  
15 communities of interest have been conducted under section  
16 307(e).

17 (4) The commission shall not split precincts unless  
18 necessary to satisfy the congressional district map drawing  
19 criteria specified under subsection (a). If the commission  
20 finds it is necessary to split a precinct, the commission  
21 shall explain its decision in its written evaluation and  
22 inform the secretary.

23 Section 310. Failure to adopt final congressional district map.

24 (a) Transmission to General Assembly.--If the commission  
25 fails to adopt a final congressional district map by October 15  
26 of each year ending in one, the final congressional district map  
27 made available for public view under section 308(b)(4) shall  
28 be transmitted to the General Assembly with the written  
29 evaluations under section 308(b)(5) no later than October 21 of  
30 each year ending in one. A commissioner may submit additional

1 written comments with the final congressional district map  
2 transmitted under this subsection.

3 (b) Approval of final map.--No later than December 1 of each  
4 year ending in one, the Senate and the House of Representatives  
5 must approve the same congressional district map transmitted  
6 under subsection (a) by a majority vote before the congressional  
7 district map can be certified as the final congressional  
8 district map by the secretary.

9 (c) Process.--Within seven calendar days, the President pro  
10 tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
11 Representatives shall promptly bring the congressional district  
12 map transmitted under subsection (a) to the floor of the  
13 appropriate chambers for a floor vote. If the congressional  
14 district map does not garner votes totaling 50% plus one of the  
15 total number of voting members of the General Assembly in both  
16 chambers, the commission shall submit a new congressional  
17 district map to the General Assembly within seven days. The  
18 General Assembly shall vote on the new congressional district  
19 map in accordance with this section and the process specified  
20 under this subsection shall continue until a congressional  
21 district map garners a majority vote in the Senate and the House  
22 of Representatives.

23 Section 311. Judicial review.

24 (a) Legal standing.--The commission shall be the only entity  
25 with standing to defend a legal action regarding a final  
26 congressional district map from money appropriated by the  
27 General Assembly funding to defend any such action. The  
28 commission shall select the legal counsel to defend a legal  
29 action regarding a final congressional district map.

30 (b) Jurisdiction.--The Supreme Court shall have original

1 jurisdiction in all proceedings in which a final congressional  
2 district map is subject to a legal action.

3 (c) Petitions.--A registered voter in this Commonwealth may  
4 file a petition for legal action within 45 days after the final  
5 congressional district map has been certified by the secretary  
6 or approved by the General Assembly under section 310(b). The  
7 Supreme Court shall consolidate legal actions if multiple  
8 petitions are filed and prioritize redistricting-related  
9 petitions.

10 Section 312. Funding of commission.

11 (a) Compensation.--Commissioners shall be compensated at the  
12 rate of \$300 for each day the commissioner is engaged in  
13 commission business. The compensation under this subsection  
14 shall be adjusted for inflation for each commission. Employees  
15 of the Department of State and commissioners shall be reimbursed  
16 for reasonable personal expenses incurred in connection with  
17 duties performed in accordance with this act and as otherwise  
18 prescribed by the laws of this Commonwealth for employees of  
19 this Commonwealth.

20 (b) Funding.--The General Assembly shall allocate sufficient  
21 funding for the commission to meet estimated expenses for a  
22 three-year period, including, but not limited to, expenses  
23 incurred in the selection of commissioners, hiring staff and a  
24 Statewide public education and outreach program.

25 (c) Office space.--The Department of General Services shall  
26 make adequate office space available for the operation of the  
27 commission.

28 (d) Commission staff.--The following shall apply:

29 (1) The commission shall hire technical staff,  
30 administrative staff, legal counsel, a web manager and other

1 technical consultants as necessary through a public bid  
2 process in accordance with 62 Pa.C.S. (relating to  
3 procurement).

4 (2) A person employed by the commission shall act in the  
5 public interest of the residents of this Commonwealth and not  
6 any individual, entity or special interest.

7 CHAPTER 21

8 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

9 Section 2101. Severability.

10 The provisions of this act are severable. If any provision of  
11 this act or its application to any person or circumstance is  
12 held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions  
13 or applications of this act which can be given effect without  
14 the invalid provision or application.

15 Section 2102. Effective date.

16 This act shall take effect immediately.