

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 222 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, COSTA, SCHWANK, CAPPELLETTI, COMITTA, KANE, KEARNEY, MARTIN, TOMLINSON, YUDICHAK, SANTARSIERO, HUTCHINSON, COLLETT, MUTH, BARTOLOTTA, HAYWOOD, FONTANA, VOGEL, STREET, SAVAL, L. WILLIAMS, BROWNE, A. WILLIAMS, BREWSTER, TARTAGLIONE AND ARGALL, FEBRUARY 26, 2021

SENATOR ARGALL, STATE GOVERNMENT, AS AMENDED, JUNE 22, 2021

AN ACT

1 ~~Providing for legislative and congressional redistricting;~~ <--  
2 ~~imposing duties on the Legislative Data Processing Committee;~~  
3 ~~and providing for redistricting criteria.~~

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12 PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL REAPPORTIONMENT AND REAPPORTIONMENT <--  
13 CRITERIA.

14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

15 hereby enacts as follows:

16 CHAPTER 1 <--

17 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

18 ~~Section 101. Short title.~~

19 ~~This act shall be known and may be cited as the Legislative~~  
20 ~~and Congressional Redistricting Act.~~

21 ~~Section 102. Definitions.~~

22 ~~The following words and phrases when used in this act shall~~  
23 ~~have the meanings given to them in this section unless the~~  
24 ~~context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

25 ~~"Commission." The Legislative Reapportionment Commission~~  
26 ~~authorized by section 17 of Article II of the Constitution of~~  
27 ~~Pennsylvania to adopt a legislative redistricting plan.~~

28 ~~"Committee" or "committees." The Committee on State~~  
29 ~~Government of the Senate and the Committee on State Government~~  
30 ~~of the House of Representatives or their successor committees.~~

31 ~~"Community of interest." A neighborhood or geographically~~

1 ~~confined area of persons who share similar social, cultural and~~  
2 ~~economic interests or other shared interests that may be subject~~  
3 ~~to legislative action. A community's shared interest does not~~  
4 ~~include a shared relationship with a political party, incumbent~~  
5 ~~or political candidate.~~

6 ~~"Congressional redistricting plan." A redistricting plan for~~  
7 ~~congressional districts drawn under the requirements of this~~  
8 ~~act.~~

9 ~~"Federal census." The decennial census required by Federal~~  
10 ~~law to be conducted by the United States Bureau of the Census in~~  
11 ~~every year ending in zero.~~

12 ~~"LDPC." The Legislative Data Processing Committee created by~~  
13 ~~section 1(a) of the act of December 10, 1968 (P.L.1158, No.365),~~  
14 ~~entitled "An act creating and establishing the Legislative Data~~  
15 ~~Processing Committee: providing for its membership; prescribing~~  
16 ~~its powers, functions and duties; and making an appropriation."~~

17 ~~"Legislative district." The term includes Pennsylvania's~~  
18 ~~senatorial districts and representative districts.~~

19 ~~"Legislative redistricting plan." A plan adopted under~~  
20 ~~Article II of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and this act. The~~  
21 ~~term includes a reapportionment plan.~~

22 ~~"Plan." A congressional redistricting plan or legislative~~  
23 ~~redistricting plan drawn under the requirements of this act.~~

24 ~~"Political subdivision." A county, city, incorporated town,~~  
25 ~~borough, township or ward.~~

26 ~~"Responsive." In reference to a district, that the voting~~  
27 ~~bloes are substantially and similarly able to translate their~~  
28 ~~popular support into representation in an elected body and that~~  
29 ~~such representation is substantially and similarly reflective of~~  
30 ~~shifts in the electorate's preferences.~~

1 ~~"Secretary." The Secretary of the Commonwealth.~~

2 ~~"Shapefile." A simplified, nontopological format for storing~~  
3 ~~geometric location and attribute information of geographic~~  
4 ~~areas.~~

5 ~~Section 103. Legislative Data Processing Committee~~  
6 ~~responsibilities.~~

7 ~~Not later than 30 days after the official reporting of the~~  
8 ~~Federal census, LDPC shall:~~

9 ~~(1) Obtain from the United States Census Bureau the~~  
10 ~~population data needed for redistricting that the United~~  
11 ~~States Census Bureau is required to provide the Commonwealth~~  
12 ~~under 13 U.S.C. § 141 (relating to population and other~~  
13 ~~census information).~~

14 ~~(2) Use the data obtained to:~~

15 ~~(i) Prepare necessary descriptions of census blocks,~~  
16 ~~precincts, wards, municipalities and counties for which~~  
17 ~~census data is reported and that are suitable for use as~~  
18 ~~components of legislative and congressional districts.~~

19 ~~(ii) Assign a population figure based upon census~~  
20 ~~data to each geographic and political unit described~~  
21 ~~under subparagraph (i).~~

22 ~~(iii) Prepare maps of census blocks, precincts,~~  
23 ~~wards, municipalities and counties within this~~  
24 ~~Commonwealth that may be used to illustrate the locations~~  
25 ~~of district boundaries proposed in plans.~~

26 ~~Section 104. Transparency.~~

27 ~~(a) Open meetings. All proceedings of the commission and~~  
28 ~~committees related to legislative and congressional~~  
29 ~~redistricting under this act shall comply with 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7~~  
30 ~~(relating to open meetings). The proceedings of the commission~~

1 ~~or committees shall be contemporaneously broadcast on the~~  
2 ~~publicly accessible Internet website created under Chapter 9 in~~  
3 ~~a way that allows for public viewing and public interaction. To~~  
4 ~~ensure public participation, meetings and hearings shall be~~  
5 ~~widely advertised in multiple languages, where necessary, and be~~  
6 ~~held at times that allow for broad attendance.~~

7 ~~(b) Public comments. The commission and committees shall~~  
8 ~~develop a system for receiving written comments from the public,~~  
9 ~~including all electronic mail formats and a comment portal on~~  
10 ~~the publicly accessible Internet website created under Chapter~~  
11 ~~9. The portal shall be able to facilitate real time public~~  
12 ~~comment during live streamed commission and committee meetings~~  
13 ~~and hearings. The comments shall be reviewed by the commission~~  
14 ~~and committees and given consideration equal to in person~~  
15 ~~testimony.~~

## 16 ~~CHAPTER 3~~

### 17 ~~LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION~~

18 ~~Section 301. Chair.~~

19 ~~(a) Qualifications. The chair of the commission must be a~~  
20 ~~citizen of this Commonwealth, but not a Federal, State or local~~  
21 ~~official holding an office to which compensation is attached,~~  
22 ~~and who:~~

23 ~~(1) Has voted in two of the last three Statewide general~~  
24 ~~elections immediately preceding the date of appointment to~~  
25 ~~the commission.~~

26 ~~(2) Has not registered, nor has a spouse who has~~  
27 ~~registered, as a Federal or State lobbyist in this~~  
28 ~~Commonwealth in the five years immediately preceding the date~~  
29 ~~of appointment to the commission.~~

30 ~~(3) Has not been nominated, nor has a spouse who has~~

1 ~~been nominated, as a candidate for elective office in this~~  
2 ~~Commonwealth by a political party or political body in the~~  
3 ~~five years immediately preceding the date of appointment to~~  
4 ~~the commission.~~

5 ~~(4) Has not served, nor has a spouse who has served, as~~  
6 ~~a staff member or officer of a political party, political~~  
7 ~~body, political committee or political action committee in~~  
8 ~~this Commonwealth in the five years immediately preceding the~~  
9 ~~date of appointment to the commission.~~

10 ~~(5) Has not served, nor has a spouse who has served, as~~  
11 ~~a staff member of an elected official in this Commonwealth in~~  
12 ~~the five years immediately preceding the date of appointment~~  
13 ~~to the commission.~~

14 ~~(b) Ethical standards. The provisions of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 11~~  
15 ~~(relating to ethics standards and financial disclosure) shall~~  
16 ~~apply to the commission chair, who shall complete and file a~~  
17 ~~financial disclosure report prior to taking office and one year~~  
18 ~~after leaving office.~~

19 ~~CHAPTER 5~~

20 ~~LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING PLANS~~

21 ~~Section 501. Process.~~

22 ~~(a) Citizen plans. A resident of this Commonwealth may~~  
23 ~~submit to the commission a redistricting plan for any or all~~  
24 ~~legislative districts or parts of districts.~~

25 ~~(b) Preliminary plan.~~

26 ~~(1) Prior to the date that a preliminary plan is filed~~  
27 ~~with the secretary, the commission shall schedule and conduct~~  
28 ~~at least four public hearings in different regions of this~~  
29 ~~Commonwealth.~~

30 ~~(2) Upon completion of the public hearings, the~~

1 ~~commission shall approve a preliminary plan at a public~~  
2 ~~meeting. The commission shall give at least seven days'~~  
3 ~~notice to the public prior to the meeting the commission~~  
4 ~~approves the preliminary plan.~~

5 ~~(3) The commission shall file the approved preliminary~~  
6 ~~plan with the secretary.~~

7 ~~(4) Records pertaining to the commission's action on a~~  
8 ~~preliminary plan shall be disclosed on the publicly~~  
9 ~~accessible Internet website created under Chapter 9 as soon~~  
10 ~~as practicable after adoption.~~

11 ~~(5) A person aggrieved by the preliminary plan may file~~  
12 ~~exceptions no later than 15 days after adoption.~~

13 ~~(6) If a person files a timely exception to the plan,~~  
14 ~~the commission shall schedule and conduct at least two public~~  
15 ~~hearings to hear testimony regarding the exception.~~

16 ~~(c) Final plan. The commission shall approve a final plan~~  
17 ~~at a public meeting. The commission shall give at least seven~~  
18 ~~days' notice to the public prior to the meeting the commission~~  
19 ~~approves the final plan.~~

20 ~~(d) Publication. The commission shall publish the proposed~~  
21 ~~final plan on the publicly accessible Internet website created~~  
22 ~~under Chapter 9 for at least seven days prior to the meeting the~~  
23 ~~final plan is approved.~~

24 ~~(e) Filing. Upon approval the final plan shall be filed~~  
25 ~~with the secretary.~~

26 ~~Section 502. Contents of plans.~~

27 ~~A legislative redistricting plan shall include the following:~~

28 ~~(1) The senatorial and representative districts~~  
29 ~~authorized by the Constitution of Pennsylvania and the~~  
30 ~~political subdivisions, or parts of political subdivisions,~~

1 ~~to be included within each district.~~

2 ~~(2) Maps depicting the division of this Commonwealth~~  
3 ~~into senatorial and representative districts and all~~  
4 ~~political subdivisions, or parts of political subdivisions,~~  
5 ~~to be included within each district.~~

6 ~~(3) The underlying data used to create or evaluate maps~~  
7 ~~in a format easily usable for analysis.~~

8 ~~(4) Precinct level shapefiles and census block~~  
9 ~~equivalency files.~~

10 ~~(5) An explanation of the necessity for each division of~~  
11 ~~a political subdivision.~~

12 ~~(6) An explanation of how each district map complies~~  
13 ~~with the criteria described in section 503 and this section~~  
14 ~~and responses to public comment.~~

15 ~~Section 503. Redistricting criteria.~~

16 ~~(a) General rule. In addition to the requirements of~~  
17 ~~section 16 of Article II of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and~~  
18 ~~Federal law, the following shall apply to the drawing of~~  
19 ~~legislative district lines:~~

20 ~~(1) Districts shall provide racial and language~~  
21 ~~minorities with an equal opportunity to participate in the~~  
22 ~~political process and may not dilute or diminish their~~  
23 ~~ability to elect candidates of choice by themselves or in~~  
24 ~~coalition with others.~~

25 ~~(2) A county may not contain more senatorial districts~~  
26 ~~than the number required by the population plus one.~~

27 ~~(3) A county may not contain more representative~~  
28 ~~districts than the number required by the population plus~~  
29 ~~two.~~

30 ~~(4) A redistricting plan shall not divide precincts.~~



1 ~~(b) Plan priorities. To the extent possible and in~~  
2 ~~compliance with subsection (a), a redistricting plan shall~~  
3 ~~include the following in order of priority:~~

4 ~~(1) Keep communities of interest intact.~~

5 ~~(2) Be responsive, as measured by one or more widely~~  
6 ~~accepted measures of responsiveness.~~

7 ~~(3) Conform district boundaries to natural boundaries~~  
8 ~~existing in the physical geography of an area.~~

9 ~~Section 504. Political discrimination.~~

10 ~~A legislative redistricting plan shall not purposefully or~~  
11 ~~unduly favor or disfavor an incumbent elected official,~~  
12 ~~candidate or prospective candidate for elective office. A~~  
13 ~~redistricting plan on a Statewide basis shall not purposefully~~  
14 ~~or unduly favor or disfavor a political party.~~

#### 15 ~~CHAPTER 7~~

#### 16 ~~CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLANS~~

17 ~~Section 701. Form of plans.~~

18 ~~A congressional redistricting plan shall be in the form of a~~  
19 ~~bill listing the congressional districts allocated to the~~  
20 ~~Commonwealth and the political subdivisions, or parts of~~  
21 ~~political subdivisions, to be included within each district.~~

22 ~~Section 702. Congressional redistricting process.~~

23 ~~(a) Citizen plans. A resident of this Commonwealth may~~  
24 ~~submit to the committees a congressional redistricting plan for~~  
25 ~~any or all congressional districts or parts of districts for~~  
26 ~~consideration.~~

27 ~~(b) Preliminary hearings. No later than 60 days after the~~  
28 ~~official reporting of the Federal census, the committees shall~~  
29 ~~conduct at least four public hearings in different regions of~~  
30 ~~this Commonwealth to receive testimony on redistricting of the~~

1 ~~Commonwealth's congressional districts. The committees may~~  
2 ~~convene as a joint committee for this purpose or may agree to~~  
3 ~~divide the hearings as they deem advisable.~~

4 ~~(c) Preliminary committee plans. Upon completion of the~~  
5 ~~hearings required under subsection (b), either committee may~~  
6 ~~approve a preliminary congressional redistricting plan with not~~  
7 ~~less than seven days' prior notice to the public. The plan shall~~  
8 ~~be available on the publicly accessible Internet website created~~  
9 ~~under Chapter 9 for that seven day period. A preliminary plan~~  
10 ~~shall be supplemented by the following:~~

11 ~~(1) A map depicting the division of the Commonwealth~~  
12 ~~into congressional districts and the political subdivisions,~~  
13 ~~or parts of political subdivisions, to be included within~~  
14 ~~each district.~~

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

17 ~~(3) Precinct level shapefiles and census block~~  
18 ~~equivalency files.~~

19 ~~(4) An explanation of the necessity for each division of~~  
20 ~~a political subdivision.~~

21 ~~(5) An explanation of how each district map complies~~  
22 ~~with the criteria described in sections 703 and 704.~~

23 ~~(6) The committee response to public comment.~~

24 ~~(d) Hearings on preliminary plans. Upon approval of a~~  
25 ~~preliminary plan, the committees shall conduct at least four~~  
26 ~~public hearings in different regions of this Commonwealth to~~  
27 ~~receive testimony on the preliminary plan.~~

28 ~~(e) Committee action. Upon completion of the hearings~~  
29 ~~required under subsection (d) and with no less than seven days'~~  
30 ~~prior notice to the public, the committee shall consider any~~

1 ~~proposed amendment to the preliminary plan and report the plan~~  
2 ~~and supplementary information for consideration by the Senate~~  
3 ~~and House of Representatives.~~

4 ~~Section 703. Redistricting criteria.~~

5 ~~(a) General rule. In addition to the requirements of~~  
6 ~~Federal law, the following shall apply to the drawing of~~  
7 ~~congressional district lines:~~

8 ~~(1) Districts shall be composed of compact and~~  
9 ~~contiguous territory and, unless absolutely necessary, no~~  
10 ~~county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward~~  
11 ~~shall be divided.~~

12 ~~(2) Districts shall provide racial and language~~  
13 ~~minorities with an equal opportunity to participate in the~~  
14 ~~political process and may not dilute or diminish their~~  
15 ~~ability to elect candidates of choice by themselves or in~~  
16 ~~coalition with others.~~

17 ~~(3) A county may not contain more congressional~~  
18 ~~districts than the number required by the population plus~~  
19 ~~one.~~

20 ~~(4) A redistricting plan shall not divide precincts.~~

21 ~~(b) Plan priorities. To the extent possible and in~~  
22 ~~compliance with subsection (a), a redistricting plan shall~~  
23 ~~include the following in order of priority:~~

24 ~~(1) Keep communities of interest intact.~~

25 ~~(2) Be responsive, as measured by one or more widely~~  
26 ~~accepted measures of responsiveness.~~

27 ~~(3) Conform district boundaries to natural boundaries~~  
28 ~~existing in the physical geography of an area.~~

29 ~~Section 704. Political discrimination.~~

30 ~~A congressional redistricting plan shall not purposefully or~~

1 ~~unduly favor or disfavor an incumbent elected official,~~  
2 ~~candidate or prospective candidate for elective office. A~~  
3 ~~redistricting plan on a Statewide basis shall not purposefully~~  
4 ~~or unduly favor or disfavor a political party.~~

5 CHAPTER 9

6 DATA TRANSPARENCY

7 ~~Section 901. Dissemination of information to public.~~

8 ~~The LDPC shall establish a publicly accessible, user friendly~~  
9 ~~Internet website to disseminate the information and data~~  
10 ~~required by this act. All data posted to the website must be~~  
11 ~~easily available to the public free of charge.~~

12 ~~Section 902. Redistricting data.~~

13 ~~During the redistricting process, the LDPC shall assist the~~  
14 ~~commission and committees in collecting and posting data to the~~  
15 ~~publicly accessible Internet website required under section 901.~~  
16 ~~In addition to the data and information required by other~~  
17 ~~provisions of this act, the data shall include the following:~~

18 ~~(1) Data intended for use in drafting a preliminary plan~~  
19 ~~or any revised plan in a format easily usable for analysis.~~

20 ~~(2) Access to software and a portal that can be used by~~  
21 ~~any Pennsylvania resident to prepare and submit a plan.~~

22 ~~(3) Plans submitted by residents in, at least, PDF and~~  
23 ~~shapefile formats.~~

24 ~~(4) Adequate notice of commission and committee meetings~~  
25 ~~and public hearings.~~

26 ~~(5) Transcripts of testimony presented at public~~  
27 ~~meetings and hearings.~~

28 ~~(6) Written testimony.~~

29 ~~(7) All written communications between the commission or~~  
30 ~~committees and other persons concerning a plan.~~



1 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

2 "CENSUS." THE DECENNIAL COUNT OR ENUMERATION OF THE  
3 POPULATION REQUIRED BY SECTION 2 OF ARTICLE I OF THE  
4 CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND RELATED FEDERAL LAW  
5 CONDUCTED EVERY 10 YEARS IN YEARS ENDING IN ZERO.

6 "CENSUS BLOCK." THE SMALLEST AND LOWEST LEVEL OF GEOGRAPHY  
7 USED BY THE UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU TO TABULATE POPULATION  
8 DATA COLLECTED DURING THE CENSUS, THAT IS COMPILED WITH OTHERS  
9 INTO BLOCK GROUPS, WHICH ARE THEN COMPILED INTO CENSUS TRACTS,  
10 AND THAT MAY HAVE ANY POPULATION LEVEL INCLUDING ZERO.

11 "COMMITTEES." THE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE  
12 AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF  
13 REPRESENTATIVES OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

14 "CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT." THE BOUNDARIES DEFINING THE  
15 CONSTITUENCY FROM WHICH A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED  
16 STATES IS ELECTED.

17 "CONGRESSIONAL REAPPORTIONMENT PLAN." A PROPOSAL TO  
18 ESTABLISH ELECTION BOUNDARIES FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS  
19 PREPARED UNDER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT. THE TERM INCLUDES A  
20 REAPPORTIONMENT PLAN.

21 "DEVIATION." A STATISTICAL FORMULA MEASURING THE DEGREE TO  
22 WHICH THE POPULATION OF A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VARIES FROM THE  
23 IDEAL POPULATION OF THAT DISTRICT AS EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE.

24 "IDEAL POPULATION." A POPULATION FIGURE DETERMINED BY  
25 DIVIDING THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THIS COMMONWEALTH BY THE NUMBER  
26 OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS TO BE CREATED AS DETERMINED BY THE  
27 CENSUS.

28 "MUNICIPAL FRAGMENT OR ENCLAVE." A PORTION OF A POLITICAL  
29 SUBDIVISION THAT IS GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED FROM A CONGRESSIONAL  
30 DISTRICT BECAUSE IT IS SURROUNDED ENTIRELY BY ANOTHER POLITICAL

1 SUBDIVISION OR EQUIVALENT JURISDICTION.

2 "OVERALL RANGE." THE DIFFERENCE IN POPULATION BETWEEN THE  
3 LARGEST AND THE SMALLEST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS AS EXPRESSED AS  
4 A PERCENTAGE THAT REFLECTS THE DIFFERENCE IN THE NUMBER OF  
5 PEOPLE BETWEEN DISTRICTS.

6 "PLAN." A CONGRESSIONAL REAPPORTIONMENT PROPOSAL OFFERED  
7 UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

8 "POLITICAL SUBDIVISION." A CITY, COUNTY, INCORPORATED TOWN,  
9 BOROUGH, TOWNSHIP OR WARD WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

10 "REAPPORTIONMENT." THE REDRAWING OF THIS COMMONWEALTH'S  
11 CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES BASED UPON DATA FROM THE CENSUS.  
12 THE TERM INCLUDES REDISTRICTING.

13 "VOTING DISTRICT." BOUNDARIES ESTABLISHED TO ADMINISTER  
14 ELECTIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS. THE TERM MAY INCLUDE AN  
15 ELECTION DISTRICT OR PRECINCT.

16 SECTION 3. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES.

17 NOT LONGER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER THE OFFICIAL REPORTING OF THE  
18 CENSUS, THE COMMITTEES SHALL:

19 (1) DETERMINE THAT DATA FROM THE UNITED STATES CENSUS  
20 BUREAU PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 13 U.S.C. § 141 (RELATING  
21 TO POPULATION AND OTHER CENSUS INFORMATION) IS AVAILABLE AND  
22 USEABLE.

23 (2) DETERMINE THE IDEAL POPULATION FOR EACH  
24 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

25 (3) DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC ON DATA TO BE  
26 USED IN CREATING, EVALUATING OR ANALYZING MAPS OR DRAFTING  
27 PLANS, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE CENSUS BLOCK DATA, VOTING  
28 DISTRICTS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965  
29 (PUBLIC LAW 89-110, 52 U.S.C. § 10301 ET SEQ.), AS  
30 INTERPRETED BY THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

1 (4) DEVELOP A SYSTEM FOR RECEIVING AND PUBLICLY SHARING  
2 WRITTEN COMMENTS AND CITIZEN CONGRESSIONAL REAPPORTIONMENT  
3 PLANS.

4 (5) CONDUCT AT LEAST FOUR PUBLIC HEARINGS TO RECEIVE  
5 INPUT FROM FOUR DIFFERENT AND DISTINCT REGIONS OF THIS  
6 COMMONWEALTH ON PLANS.

7 (6) PROVIDE WRITTEN EXPLANATIONS OF:

8 (I) HOW A PLAN DIVIDES CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS INTO  
9 COMPACT AND CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY NEARLY EQUAL IN  
10 POPULATION AS PRACTICABLE WHILE ENSURING NO DIVISION OF  
11 ANY COUNTY, CITY, INCORPORATED TOWN, BOROUGH, TOWNSHIP OR  
12 WARD UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
13 SECTION 4;

14 (II) HOW A PLAN COMPLIES WITH SECTION 4;

15 (III) HOW A PLAN CONSIDERS PUBLIC COMMENTS AND  
16 CITIZEN MAP SUBMISSIONS; AND

17 (IV) THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRELIMINARY PLANS AND  
18 THE FINAL PLAN.

19 SECTION 4. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT STANDARDS.

20 (A) GENERAL RULE.--CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS SHALL BE  
21 ESTABLISHED ON THE BASIS OF POPULATION. EACH CONGRESSIONAL  
22 DISTRICT SHALL HAVE A DEVIATION FROM THE IDEAL POPULATION THAT  
23 SHALL NOT EXCEED THE OVERALL RANGE OF A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
24 PLAN. A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT PLAN SHALL HAVE AN OVERALL RANGE  
25 OF 0%, EXCEPT A HIGHER RANGE SHALL BE USED TO PREVENT THE  
26 DIVISION OF OR IN ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION AS PROVIDED FOR IN  
27 SUBSECTION (B).

28 (B) BOUNDARIES.--CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES SHALL  
29 COINCIDE WITH THE BOUNDARIES OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AS  
30 FOLLOWS:



1           (1) A CITY, INCORPORATED TOWN, BOROUGH OR TOWNSHIP WITH  
2 A POPULATION LESS THAN THE IDEAL POPULATION OF A  
3 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAY NOT BE DIVIDED.

4           (2) THE NUMBER OF COUNTIES AND WARDS DIVIDED TO FORM ONE  
5 OR MORE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS SHALL BE THE MINIMUM NUMBER  
6 NECESSARY TO NOT EXCEED THE OVERALL RANGE ESTABLISHED UNDER  
7 SUBSECTION (A).

8           (3) IF A DIVISION IS NECESSITATED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2),  
9 THE NUMBER OF DIVISIONS IN A COUNTY OR WARD TO FORM ONE OR  
10 MORE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SHALL BE THE MINIMUM NUMBER  
11 NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE EQUAL POPULATION UNDER SUBSECTION (A).

12           (4) NO VOTING PRECINCT MAY BE DIVIDED.

13           (5) PREFERENCE SHALL BE GIVEN TO MAINTAINING SCHOOL  
14 DISTRICT BOUNDARIES BUT NOT IF DOING SO WOULD CREATE A  
15 DIVISION TO A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.

16           (C) CONTIGUOUS.--THE BOUNDARIES OF EACH DISTRICT SHALL BE  
17 DRAWN USING A SINGLE NONINTERSECTING CONTINUOUS LINE. A COUNTY  
18 OR MUNICIPAL FRAGMENT OR ENCLAVE CONTAINING LESS THAN FIFTY  
19 PERSONS SHALL BE CONSIDERED CONTIGUOUS TO THE DISTRICT IF THE  
20 REMAINDER OF THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY IS WHOLLY WITHIN THE  
21 SAME DISTRICT.

22           (D) COMPACTNESS.--THE BOUNDARIES OF EACH DISTRICT SHALL  
23 PROVIDE FOR GEOGRAPHIC COMPACTNESS, HOWEVER, GEOGRAPHIC  
24 COMPACTNESS SHALL NOT TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE PRECEDING  
25 CRITERIA, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, OVERALL RANGE AND  
26 NUMBER OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS DIVIDED.

27           (E) VOTING RIGHTS ACT.--NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE  
28 CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE OR PERMIT ANY REAPPORTIONMENT POLICY OR  
29 ACTION THAT IS CONTRARY TO THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 (PUBLIC  
30 LAW 89-110, 52 U.S.C. § 10301 ET SEQ.), AS INTERPRETED BY THE

1 UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

2 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

3 THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.