
DIGEST

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HB 623 Original

2020 Regular Session

Freeman

Abstract: Creates a study and advisory commission to make recommendations to the legislature regarding redistricting.

Proposed law provides for a study and advisory commission to study redistricting and make recommendations to the legislature. Requires the commission to study and report findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than Feb. 15th of each year ending in one regarding past redistricting proceedings, best redistricting practices established in other states, redistricting tools and resources that have become available since the most recently completed redistricting cycle, and proposed redistricting plans. Provides that the commission may make additional recommendations to the legislature until December thirty-first of the year ending in one.

Proposed law provides that the commission consist of:

- (1) A non-voting chairman appointed jointly by the chairs of the House and Senate governmental affairs committees.
- (2) Three non-legislator members appointed by the speaker of the House in a manner which reflects the demographic diversity of the state specifically in gender, race, ethnicity, and political party affiliation.
- (3) Three non-legislator members appointed by the president of the Senate in a manner which reflects the demographic diversity of the state specifically in gender, race, ethnicity, and political party affiliation.
- (4) Three members appointed by the governor, one female, one from a recognized minority group, and at least one who is not affiliated with the same recognized political party as the governor. Further, at least one of the members the governor appoints shall be an academic or legal professional or a demographer with relevant knowledge of or experience with the redistricting process in La.
- (5) One member appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court.
- (6) The secretary of state, or his designee.
- (7) One member appointed by the chair of the Louisiana Democratic Party.

- (8) One member appointed by the chair of the Independent Party of Louisiana.
- (9) One member appointed by the chair of the Republican Party of Louisiana.
- (10) Three members who shall be appointed by the commission as representatives from nonprofit civic organizations. Requires the commission to compare the composition of the existing membership on the commission to the demographic diversity of the state specifically in gender, race, ethnicity, and political party affiliation, and to make every effort to appoint members in a manner to make total composition of the membership as reflective of the demographic diversity of the state as possible.

Proposed law provides that any vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the manner of initial selection as soon as possible.

Proposed law requires the chairs of the governmental affairs committees to appoint the chairman of the commission no later than March 15th of each year ending in zero. Requires the chairman to notify the other appointing or designating authorities by March 20th of the year ending in zero. Requires each appointing or designating authority to submit to the chairman, the name and contact information of each person such authority has appointed to serve on the commission by April 1 of the year ending in zero. Provides that the chairman shall call an organizational meeting no later than the end of April of the year ending in zero to establish a meeting schedule to enable the commission to perform its functions and duties in the manner required by proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the members serve without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which a member may be individually entitled as a member of his organization. Requires all state and local agencies and officials to cooperate with and assist the commission in carrying out its functions and duties. Requires the presiding officers of the legislature to designate appropriate staff to provide assistance to the commission in carrying out its duties.

(Adds R.S. 18:1961)