HLS 22RS-973 ORIGINAL

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 562

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BY REPRESENTATIVE GLOVER

REAPPORTIONMENT: (Constitutional Amendment) Provides relative to a redistricting commission

A JOINT RESOLUTION

2 Proposing to amend Article III, Section 6 and to enact Article XI, Section 6 of the 3 Constitution of Louisiana, to provide for a redistricting commission to propose 4 alternative redistricting plans for congress and each house of the state legislature; to 5 provide certain restrictions on the legislature relative to the redistricting plans so proposed; to provide for commission composition and to provide timeframes for 6 7 such action; to provide for certain requirements relative to redistricting; to provide 8 for redistricting by the supreme court upon failure of the commission or the 9 legislature to comply with such requirements; to authorize the legislature to provide 10 relative to the commission and related procedures; to provide for submission of the 11 proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters. 12 Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members 13 elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of 14 Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to 15 amend Article III, Section 6 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows: 16 §6. Legislative Reapportionment Redistricting; Redistricting Commission; Reapportionment Redistricting by Supreme Court; Procedure 17 18 Section 6.(A) Reapportionment Redistricting by Legislature. By the end of the year following the year in which the population of this state is reported to the 19 president of the United States for each decennial federal census, the legislature shall 20

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1	reapportion the representation in redistrict the districts for the election of the
2	members to each house as equally as practicable on the basis of population shown
3	by the census.
4	(B) Redistricting Commission. The legislature shall comply with Paragraph
5	(A) of this Section as provided in Article XI, Section 6 of this constitution.
6	(B) (C) Reapportionment Redistricting by Supreme Court. If the legislature
7	fails to reapportion redistrict as required in Paragraph Paragraphs (A) and (B) of this
8	Section, the supreme court, upon petition of any elector, shall reapportion the
9	representation in redistrict the districts for the election of the members to each house
10	as provided in Paragraph (A) of this Section.
11	(C) (D) Procedure. The procedure for review and for petition shall be
12	provided by law.
13	Section 2. Be it further resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the
14	members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of
15	the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a
16	proposal to add Article XI, Section 6 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:
17	§6. Redistricting Commission; Composition; Duties
18	Section 6.(A)(1) In each year in which the federal decennial census is taken,
19	a redistricting commission shall be established as provided in this Paragraph to
20	propose plans for redistricting the districts for the election of the members of the
21	House of Representatives and of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana and the
22	members of Congress from Louisiana. The redistricting commission shall be
23	composed of fifteen members who shall be qualified electors of the state and who
24	shall be selected not later than April first as follows:
25	(a) Not later than March first of each year in which the federal decennial
26	census is taken:
27	(i) Four commission members, no more than two of whom shall be affiliated
28	with the same political party, shall be elected by the House of Representatives by a
29	favorable record vote of two-thirds of the elected members. In the selection of

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2 the demographics of the population of the state, including but not limited to geography, gender, ethnicity, race, and political party affiliation and shall elect 3 4 qualified persons to serve on the commission in manner that reflects the 5 demographics of the state to the fullest extent practicable 6 (ii) Four commission members, no more than two of whom shall be affiliated 7 with the same political party, shall be elected by the Senate by a favorable record 8 vote of two-thirds of the elected members. In the selection of commission members, 9 the Senate shall give due consideration to the demographics of the population of the 10 state, including but not limited to geography, gender, ethnicity, race, and political 11 party affiliation and shall elect qualified persons to serve on the commission in 12 manner that reflects the demographics of the state to the fullest extent practicable. 13 (iii) Three commission members, no more than two of whom shall be 14 affiliated with the same political party, shall be appointed by the governor. In the 15 selection of commission members, the governor shall give due consideration to the 16 demographics of the population of the state, including but not limited to geography, 17 gender, ethnicity, race, and political party affiliation and shall appoint qualified 18 persons to serve on the commission in manner that reflects the demographics of the 19 state to the fullest extent practicable. 20 (iv) Three commission members, no more than two of whom shall be 21 affiliated with the same political party, shall be appointed by the supreme court. In 22 the selection of commission members, the supreme court shall give due 23 consideration to the demographics of the population of the state, including but not 24 limited to geography, gender, ethnicity, race, and political party affiliation and shall appoint qualified persons to serve on the commission in manner that reflects the 25 26 demographics of the state to the fullest extent practicable. 27 (b) Not later than March twentieth of each year in which the federal 28 decennial census is taken, at a meeting of the commission members selected pursuant

commission members, the House of Representatives shall give due consideration to

to Subsubparagraph (a) of this Subparagraph called by the secretary of state, one

1	member shall be appointed to the commission by a two-thirds vote of said
2	commission members and if no other commission member is unaffiliated with a
3	political party, the commission member so appointed shall be unaffiliated with a
4	political party.
5	(c) No person shall be selected or remain eligible to serve on the commission
6	who:
7	(i) Holds an elected or appointed public or political party office.
8	(ii) Is a member of the immediate family of a public official who serves in
9	an office subject to redistricting by the commission.
10	(iii) Is a public employee.
11	(iv) Is an employee of a public official who serves in an office subject to
12	redistricting by the commission or of a legal entity in which such public official has
13	a business or financial interest.
14	(v) Is a registered lobbyist.
15	(vi) Is a member or an employee of any national, state, or local committee
16	of a political party.
17	(vii) Takes part in the management of the affairs of a political party,
18	candidate, political committee, or political campaign, including consulting or polling
19	activity for a political party, candidate, political committee, or political campaign.
20	(viii) Has changed political party affiliation within the last three years
21	(ix) Is a registered voter in any other state.
22	(d) No former member of the commission shall seek elective public office
23	in Louisiana nor register as a lobbyist in Louisiana for a period of three years
24	following the termination of service on the commission.
25	(2) A vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the manner of the original
26	selection within twenty days of the vacancy.
27	(3) The commission members shall serve until the redistricting of congress
28	and each house of the legislature has been completed after the decennial census and
29	has become effective, and at that time the commission shall be dissolved until a new

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commission is established as provided in this Section; however, if a new redistricting is required during the time between decennial censuses, a new commission shall be established in the manner provided in Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph, and each appointing authority shall select its members of the commission within thirty days of the determination that a new redistricting is required.

- (4) Each member of the commission shall receive the same per diem and travel allowance as provided for members of the legislature.
- (5) No member of the commission shall take any action as a commission member until the member has taken the oath of office provided in Article X, Section 30 of this constitution and has executed and filed with the secretary of state a sworn statement certifying that the member shall perform the duties as a member of the commission in an honest, ethical, independent, and impartial manner in order to uphold and maintain public confidence in the integrity of the redistricting process.
- (B) The redistricting commission shall provide for the redistricting of the districts for the election of members of the House of Representatives and of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana and of the members of congress from Louisiana. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public and shall be noticed and advertised in a manner to encourage public participation. All communications to the commission or any member of the commission regarding redistricting shall be placed in the official record of the commission. At a minimum, the commission shall conduct at least one public meeting within each congressional district of the state. The commission may, at its discretion, utilize the assistance of the appropriate staff of the legislature. The commission shall submit to the legislature three alternative plans for redistricting of each house of the legislature at least three days prior to the final date for prefiling of legislation at the regular session in the year following the year in which the population of the state is reported to the president of the United States. The commission shall submit to the legislature three alternative plans for redistricting the congressional districts at least three days prior to the final date for prefiling of legislation at the regular session next preceding

qualification of candidates for election at the first election for congress after the
release of decennial census information at the precinct level by the federal
government. Each plan submitted by the commission shall require approval by a
vote of two-thirds of the total membership of the commission and shall redistrict the
districts in accordance with federal law and the requirements of this constitution.
(C)(1) The legislature shall enact, without amendment, one of the three plans
submitted to it by the commission for each house of the legislature not later than the
time provided in Article III, Section 6 of this constitution.
(2) The legislature shall enact, without amendment, one of the three plans
submitted to it by the commission for the congressional districts not later than the
regular session next preceding qualification of candidates for election at the first
election for congress after the release of decennial census information at the precinct
level by the federal government
(D) If the commission fails to submit three plans for each house of the
legislature and for congress as required by this Section or if the legislature fails to
enact one of those plans for each house of the legislature and one of those plans for
congress as required by this Section, the supreme court, upon petition of any elector,
shall redistrict the legislature as provided in Article III, Section 6(C) of this
constitution or congress in accordance with federal law and the requirements of this
constitution.
(E). The legislature shall make adequate appropriations as necessary to and
for the redistricting commission to enable it to effectively perform the functions and
duties required by this Section. The amount appropriated to and for the redistricting
commission shall not be subject to veto by the governor.
(F) This Section shall be self-operative, but the legislature may provide by
law relative to the redistricting commission and procedures to implement this
Section, including but not limited to expenses and staffing for the commission,
provided such statutory provisions do not conflict with this Section or any other
provision of this constitution.

1 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 8, 2 3 2022. 4 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election, 5 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted 6 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as 7 follows: 8 Do you support an amendment to provide for an independent redistricting 9 commission to propose alternative redistricting plans for each house of the 10 legislature and for congress and to require the legislature to enact one of each 11 such plans without amendment? (Amends Article III, Section 6; Adds 12 Article XI, Section 6)

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 562 Original

2022 Regular Session

Glover

Abstract: Establishes and provides for a redistricting commission to propose alternative redistricting plans for each house of the legislature and for congress. Requires the legislature to enact one of each such plans without amendment.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> provides for a redistricting commission as follows:

- (1) Establishes a redistricting commission by April 1 of each year in which the federal decennial census is taken to propose plans for redistricting each house of the legislature and for congress. Provides for the commission to be composed of 15 qualified electors of the state of whom four are elected by a two-thirds vote of the House of Representatives, four are elected by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, three are appointed by the governor, and three are appointed by the supreme court. For those selections, specifies that no appointing authority may appoint more than two members affiliated with the same political party and requires in the selection of commission members, due consideration to the demographics of the population of the state, including but not limited to geography, gender, ethnicity, race, and political party affiliation and requires selection of qualified persons to serve on the commission in manner that reflects the demographics of the state to the fullest extent practicable. Provides for one commission member to be elected by a two-thirds vote of the other commission members who, if there is no other unaffiliated commission member, shall be unaffiliated with any political party. Provides for filling vacancies in the manner of the original selection within 20 days.
- (2) Provides that no person shall be eligible or selected to serve on the commission who: holds elected or appointed public or political party office; is a member of the

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immediate family of a public official subject to redistricting by the commission; is a public employee; is an employee of a public official subject to redistricting by the commission or of a legal entity in which such public official has a business or financial interest; is a registered lobbyist; is a member or an employee or any national, state, or local committee of a political party; takes part in the management of the affairs of a political party, candidate, political committee, or political campaign, including consulting or polling activity for a political party, candidate, political committee, or political campaign; has changed party affiliation with the last three years; or is a registered voter in any other state.

- (3) Provides that commission members serve until redistricting of each body, as required, has been completed after the decennial census and has become effective, at which time the commission shall be dissolved until a new commission is established in the year of the next federal census. Prohibits a former commission member from becoming a candidate for elective public office or a registered lobbyist in the state for a period of three years after termination. Provides, however, if a new redistricting is required during the time between decennial censuses, a new commission shall be established as provided in proposed law. Specifies that each member shall receive the same per diem and travel allowance as provided to legislators. Requires each commission member to take the oath of office and certify to uphold certain standards prior to taking any action as a commission member.
- (3) Requires all meetings to be public, requires at least one meeting in each congressional district, and requires all communications to the commission or any member thereof about redistricting to be placed into the official record of the commission.
- (4) Requires the commission to submit three alternative plans for redistricting of each house to the legislature at least three days prior to the final date for prefiling of legislation at the regular session in the year following the year in which the population of the state is reported to the president of the U.S. and for congress, at least three days prior to the final date for prefiling of legislation at the regular session next preceding qualification of candidates for election at the first election of members for congress after the release of decennial census information at the precinct level.
- (5) Requires that each plan shall redistrict the districts in accordance with the requirements of the La. constitution and in accordance with federal law.
- (6) Requires the legislature to enact one of the three plans for each body without amendment. Requires the legislature to enact such legislative plans not later than the time as provided in <u>present constitution</u> (Const. Art. III, §6; see below) relative to legislative redistricting and congressional plans not later than the regular session next preceding qualification of candidates for election at the first election for congress after the release of decennial census information at the precinct level.
- (7) Provides that if the commission fails to submit three plans for each required type or if the legislature fails to enact one of those plans for each required, the La. Supreme Court, upon petition of any elector, shall accomplish the redistricting as required.
- (8) Requires adequate appropriations to and for the commission and prohibits gubernatorial veto of such appropriations. Provides that the <u>proposed constitutional amendment</u> is self-operative, but authorizes the legislature to provide by law relative to the redistricting commission and procedures to implement the <u>proposed constitutional amendment</u>, including but not limited to expenses and staffing for the commission, such law to be consistent with the <u>proposed constitutional amendment</u> and the present constitution.

<u>Present constitution</u> (Const. Art. III, §6) provides for legislative reapportionment. Requires the legislature to reapportion each house as equally as practicable on the basis of population shown by the census not later than the end of the year following the year in which the state's population is reported to the president of the U.S. for each decennial federal census.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> changes the terminology in the <u>present constitution</u> to reflect a change <u>from</u> "reapportion" and "reapportionment" <u>to</u> "redistrict" and "redistricting" and further requires that such redistricting comply with the <u>proposed constitutional amendment</u> (summarized above). Also retains <u>present constitution</u> that provides for "redistricting of the districts to elect members" of the legislature by the supreme court upon petition of any elector if the legislature fails to "redistrict" as required by the <u>present constitution</u> and <u>proposed constitutional amendment</u>. Also retains <u>present constitution</u> that provides that procedure for review and for petition shall be provided by law.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 8, 2022.

(Amends Const. Art. III, §6; Adds Const. Art. XI, §6)