

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 31 Session of  
2023

---

INTRODUCED BY WEBSTER, GALLOWAY, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS AND  
KINSEY, MARCH 10, 2023

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 10, 2023

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a  
2 study on the feasibility of computational redistricting in  
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania law requires that a five-member  
5 commission be responsible for redrawing State legislative  
6 district boundaries after each decennial census; and

7 WHEREAS, Congressional reapportionment plans are subject to  
8 the strictest Federal requirements and must be approved through  
9 the standard legislative process; and

10 WHEREAS, State legislative districts must be composed of  
11 compact and contiguous territory with no division of counties,  
12 cities, incorporated towns, boroughs, townships or wards unless  
13 absolutely necessary; and

14 WHEREAS, The General Assembly does not vote on State  
15 legislative districts nor does the Governor have the power to  
16 veto them; and

17 WHEREAS, Local-level districts are determined by each  
18 municipality's governing body following each decennial census;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, The redistricting process is often politicized and  
3 leads to gerrymandered districts; and

4 WHEREAS, Gerrymandering creates districts with complex shapes  
5 that seek to dilute the vote of one party in favor of another;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Both major political parties have practiced  
8 gerrymandering nationwide; and

9 WHEREAS, Laws exist at the Federal and State levels to  
10 safeguard the rights of residents during redistricting; and

11 WHEREAS, In practice, redistricting laws do little to reduce  
12 the occurrence of gerrymandering; and

13 WHEREAS, One possible solution to partisan gerrymandering is  
14 the use of computer algorithms, known as computational  
15 redistricting, to draw legislative districts; and

16 WHEREAS, A transition to the use of computational  
17 redistricting would minimize human involvement in the  
18 redistricting process; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
20 State Government Commission to conduct a study on the  
21 feasibility of computational redistricting in Pennsylvania; and  
22 be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study  
24 include, at a minimum, the following:

25 (1) Cost-benefit analysis on the implementation of  
26 computational redistricting.

27 (2) Analysis of the implementation and use of  
28 computational redistricting in other states, if applicable.

29 (3) Analysis of the implementation and use of  
30 computational redistricting in other countries, if

1 applicable.

2 (4) Input from stakeholders and interest groups  
3 detailing the possible positive and negative outcomes of  
4 using computational redistricting.

5 (5) Public comment on the potential implementation of  
6 computational redistricting.

7 (6) Recommendations for legislative action to implement  
8 computational redistricting;

9 and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be  
11 authorized to request information from the United States Census  
12 Bureau for the study on behalf of the House of Representatives;  
13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be  
15 authorized to request information from the Department of State  
16 and the Secretary of the Commonwealth for the study on behalf of  
17 the House of Representatives; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be  
19 authorized to request information from government entities  
20 outside of the Commonwealth for the study on behalf of the House  
21 of Representatives; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report  
23 its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives  
24 no later than one year after the adoption of this resolution.