

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7948

To require any entity established to develop congressional redistricting plans for a State to hold public hearings at which individuals who are members of communities of interest have a meaningful opportunity to express their views on proposed redistricting plans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 3, 2022

Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself and Mr. JEFFRIES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require any entity established to develop congressional redistricting plans for a State to hold public hearings at which individuals who are members of communities of interest have a meaningful opportunity to express their views on proposed redistricting plans, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. REQUIRING ENTITIES ESTABLISHED TO DE-**
2 **VELOP CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING**
3 **PLANS TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

4 (a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Any entity other than the legis-
5 lature of a State, including an independent redistricting
6 commission, a special master appointed by a Federal or
7 State court, or a Federal or State court, which develops
8 a congressional redistricting plan for a State shall—

9 (1) hold multiple public hearings prior to the
10 development of a final plan;

11 (2) ensure that individuals may attend such
12 hearings virtually;

13 (3) hold such hearings in locations which are
14 within a reasonable distance of the locations of com-
15 munities of interest; and

16 (4) ensure that members of communities of in-
17 terest have meaningful opportunities to express their
18 views on any of the entity’s plans.

19 (b) **TREATMENT OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AS**
20 **COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST.**—For purposes of this Act,
21 the term “communities of interest” may, in certain cir-
22 cumstances, include political subdivisions such as counties,
23 municipalities, tribal lands and reservations, or school dis-
24 tricts, but shall not include common relationships with po-
25 litical parties or political candidates.

26 (c) **ENFORCEMENT.**—

1 (1) ACTION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The At-
2 torney General may bring a civil action in an appro-
3 priate district court for such declaratory or injunc-
4 tive relief as is necessary to carry out this Act.

5 (2) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—A person who
6 is aggrieved by a violation of this Act may bring a
7 civil action in an appropriate district court for such
8 declaratory or injunctive relief as may be appro-
9 priate with respect to the violation.

10 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall apply with re-
11 spect to redistricting carried out pursuant to the decennial
12 census conducted during 2030 or any succeeding decennial
13 census.

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