

Subject Redistricting Commission

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Overview

This bill proposes a state constitutional amendment, and related enabling statutes, on the topic of redistricting. Among the changes is the creation of a Bipartisan Redistricting Commission that would be responsible for conducting much of the work of redistricting following each decennial census.

Article 1: Constitutional Amendment

Section Description – Article 1: Constitutional Amendment

1 Constitutional Amendments Proposed.

Proposes an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution to establish a Bipartisan Redistricting Commission. The purpose of the commission would be to adopt the boundaries of congressional and legislative districts after each decennial census.

A variety of details regarding the commission's process is provided in the bill, proposed as new article XV of the constitution. These details include a method of appointing a total of eight qualified members of the commission (two appointed by each leader of the majority and minority caucuses of the House of Representatives and the Senate); voting procedures; the authority to make technical corrections; and a process for judicial review of the commission's work.

2 Submission to voters.

The proposed constitutional amendment would be submitted to the voters at the 2026 state general election. The wording of the question that must appear on the ballot is specified.

Article 2: Bipartisan Redistricting Commission; Statutory Implementation

Section Article 2: Bipartisan Redistricting Commission; Statutory Implementation

1 **Definitions.**

Defines “Bipartisan Redistricting Commission,” in the law that governs the reallocation of persons who are incarcerated to their last known residential address, as part of the census datasets used in redistricting.

2 **Reallocation and exclusion of incarcerated persons.**

Requires the Bipartisan Redistricting Commission to comply with the law that governs the reallocation of persons who are incarcerated to their last known residential address, as part of the census datasets used in redistricting.

3 **Districting principles.**

Establishes a detailed list of principles that must be used by the Bipartisan Redistricting Commission to guide the commission in drawing district boundaries.

4 **Bipartisan Redistricting Commission.**

Provides a number of technical and administrative details and procedures to further establish the Bipartisan Redistricting Commission and enable it to do its work.

This section includes substantive requirements related to:

- the membership appointments process and the conduct of commission meetings (subds. 2 and 5)
- ethics and conflict of interest standards, including a prohibition on ex parte communications with members and staff of the legislature and members and staff of Congress (subd. 3)
- open meetings and data practices requirements (subd. 4)
- how the commission may retain administrative, professional, and technical staff (subd. 6)
- the data to be used in redistricting (subd. 7)
- a technical review process (subd. 8)
- the interaction between the commission and the duties of the secretary of state related to redistricting plans (subd. 9).

5 **Public official.**

Adds members of the Bipartisan Redistricting Commission to the list of “public officials” defined in law. Among other requirements, “public officials” are subject to Minnesota’s gift law and are required to file an annual statement of economic interest with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.



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