

HOUSE BILL 698

G1, P5
HB 599/12 – HRU

4lr1653

By: **Delegates McComas, Afzali, Arentz, Arora, Bates, Braveboy, Cluster, Cullison, Dumais, Dwyer, Eckardt, Elliott, Fisher, Frank, George, Glass, Gutierrez, Haddaway–Riccio, Hogan, Hough, Impallaria, Ivey, Jacobs, Kach, Kipke, Krebs, McConkey, McDermott, McDonough, McMillan, Mizeur, Murphy, Norman, O’Donnell, Olszewski, Otto, Ready, B. Robinson, Schuh, Schulz, Serafini, Simmons, Stocksdale, Swain, Szeliga, F. Turner, Vitale, M. Washington, Weir, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elections – Study Commission on the Redistricting Process in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Study Commission on the Redistricting Process in
4 Maryland; specifying the composition, powers, and duties of the Commission;
5 providing for the staffing of the Commission; requiring the Commission to
6 report its findings and recommendations, including suggested constitutional
7 and legislative changes, to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before
8 a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
9 to the Study Commission on the Redistricting Process in Maryland.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 MARYLAND, That:

12 (a) There is a Study Commission on the Redistricting Process in Maryland.

13 (b) The Commission shall consist of the following 13 members:

14 (1) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, one of whom shall be a
15 member of the minority party, appointed by the President of the Senate;

16 (2) Two members of the House of Delegates of Maryland, one of whom
17 shall be a member of the minority party, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

18 (3) Seven individuals appointed by the Governor, including:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) A representative of the League of Women Voters of
2 Maryland;

3 (ii) A representative of the Center for Voting and Democracy, a
4 Maryland organization;

5 (iii) A representative of the Maryland Institute for Policy
6 Analysis and Research at the University of Maryland Baltimore County; and

7 (iv) Four other individuals, chosen from among individuals and
8 organizations who have demonstrated strong civic and community involvement and
9 participation in the electoral process; and

10 (4) Two members of the general public, appointed jointly by the
11 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

12 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission.

13 (d) The Department of Legislative Services and the State Board of Elections
14 shall provide staff for the Commission.

15 (e) The Commission shall:

16 (1) Examine the current redistricting process in Maryland as it relates
17 to the redistricting of the General Assembly and the State's representatives to the
18 United States Congress following each decennial census;

19 (2) Collect and analyze information relating to the manner and
20 methods utilized for state legislative and United States congressional redistricting in
21 other states around the country following each decennial census;

22 (3) As it considers appropriate, receive testimony from and consult
23 with individuals who are knowledgeable about State and federal constitutional and
24 statutory requirements and other matters related to the redistricting process; and

25 (4) Suggest any State constitutional or statutory changes that the
26 Commission concludes are desirable to improve the redistricting process in Maryland.

27 (f) On or before December 31, 2015, the Commission shall report its findings
28 and recommendations, including any proposed changes to the Maryland Constitution
29 or any statutory changes to the Maryland election law, to the Governor and, subject to
30 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly for consideration by
31 the General Assembly in the 2016 Session.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30,

1 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.