

SENATE BILL 474

P5, G1
SB 814/15 – EHE

6lr3076

By: **Senator Pinsky**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Congressional Districting Process**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Legislative Services to obtain certain
4 census data, adjust the census data for certain purposes, and provide the adjusted
5 census data to a temporary redistricting commission within a certain time period;
6 creating a temporary redistricting commission; providing for the membership of the
7 commission and the qualifications of its members; providing that individuals cease
8 to be members of the commission under certain circumstances; requiring the
9 Department to staff and provide certain support for the commission; requiring the
10 commission to use certain census data to prepare and adopt a districting plan for
11 congressional districting within a certain time period; specifying that a certain
12 districting plan is the plan for the State; requiring that a certain districting plan be
13 filed with the Secretary of State within a certain time period; providing for the
14 effectiveness of a certain districting plan; making this Act subject to a certain
15 contingency; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the establishment of
16 districts in Maryland for the election of members of Congress.

17 BY adding to

18 Article – Election Law

19 Section 8–6A–01 through 8–6A–04 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 6A.

20 Congressional Districting Process”

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
24 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Election Law**

26 **SUBTITLE 6A. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING PROCESS.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **8-6A-01.**

2 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
3 INDICATED.

4 (B) "COMMISSION" MEANS A TEMPORARY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.

5 (C) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES.

6 **8-6A-02.**

7 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, IN THE YEAR
8 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE DECENNIAL UNITED STATES CENSUS, THE
9 DEPARTMENT SHALL:

10 (1) OBTAIN THE CENSUS DATA FROM THE UNITED STATES BUREAU
11 OF THE CENSUS IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 94-171;

12 (2) ADJUST THE CENSUS DATA TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF §
13 8-701 OF THIS TITLE AND MAKE THE CENSUS DATA USABLE FOR PREPARING A
14 DISTRICTING PLAN FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS; AND

15 (3) PROVIDE THE ADJUSTED CENSUS DATA TO THE COMMISSION
16 WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE DEPARTMENT HAS FINISHED ADJUSTING THE CENSUS
17 DATA AS REQUIRED BY ITEM (2) OF THIS SECTION.

18 **8-6A-03.**

19 (A) THERE IS A TEMPORARY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.

20 (B) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF FIVE MEMBERS.

21 (2) BY FEBRUARY 1 OF THE FIRST YEAR FOLLOWING THE UNITED
22 STATES CENSUS, FOUR MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

23 (I) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
24 SENATE;

25 (II) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF
26 THE SENATE;

1 (III) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
2 OF DELEGATES; AND

3 (IV) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF
4 THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

5 (3) (I) WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE APPOINTMENTS OF THE MEMBERS
6 TO THE COMMISSION, BUT NOT LATER THAN MARCH 1 OF THAT YEAR, THE
7 COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL SELECT, BY VOTE OF AT LEAST THREE OF THE
8 MEMBERS, THE FIFTH COMMISSION MEMBER, WHO SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR.

9 (II) IF THE COMMISSION IS UNABLE TO SELECT THE FIFTH
10 MEMBER, THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS SHALL MAKE THE
11 APPOINTMENT.

12 (4) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT BE APPOINTED TO OR SERVE ON THE
13 COMMISSION IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

14 (I) HOLDS AN ELECTIVE OR APPOINTIVE OFFICE IN THE
15 EXECUTIVE BRANCH OR LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF THE FEDERAL OR STATE OR A
16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT;

17 (II) HOLDS A POLITICAL PARTY OFFICE; OR

18 (III) IS NOT A REGISTERED VOTER OF THE STATE.

19 (C) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION MAY NOT RECEIVE A SALARY AS A
20 MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION BUT ARE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR
21 EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN
22 THE STATE BUDGET.

23 (D) INDIVIDUALS APPOINTED AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL
24 CEASE TO BE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE FILING OF THE DISTRICTING
25 PLAN FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AS
26 REQUIRED BY § 8-6A-04 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

27 (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL STAFF AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT
28 FOR THE COMMISSION.

29 8-6A-04.

30 (A) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL USE THE CENSUS DATA PROVIDED TO
31 THE COMMISSION BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER § 8-6A-02 OF THIS SUBTITLE TO

1 **PREPARE AND ADOPT A DISTRICTING PLAN FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS WITHIN**
2 **90 DAYS AFTER THE COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED OR THE CENSUS DATA**
3 **IS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION, WHICHEVER IS LATER.**

4 **(2) A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE**
5 **COMMISSION SHALL BE REQUIRED TO ADOPT A DISTRICTING PLAN FOR**
6 **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

7 **(B) THE DISTRICTING PLAN PREPARED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION**
8 **UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL:**

9 **(1) BE THE DISTRICTING PLAN FOR THE STATE;**

10 **(2) BE FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE WITHIN 7 DAYS OF THE**
11 **PLAN BEING ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION;**

12 **(3) BECOME EFFECTIVE ON THE FILING OF THE PLAN WITH THE**
13 **SECRETARY OF STATE; AND**

14 **(4) REMAIN EFFECTIVE UNTIL THE ADOPTION OF A NEW**
15 **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING PLAN AFTER THE NEXT DECENNIAL CENSUS.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is contingent on the
17 enactment of a nonpartisan districting process by another state that has between six and
18 ten seats in the United States House of Representatives and both houses of that state's
19 legislature are controlled by a party other than the party that controls the General
20 Assembly of Maryland. The Secretary of State shall monitor the enactment of districting
21 legislation by other states and notify the Department of Legislative Services within 5 days
22 after the contingency is met. If the notice of the contingency being met is not received by
23 the Department of Legislative Services on or before December 31, 2022, this Act shall be
24 null and void without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of this
26 Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.