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By: **Senator Klausmeier**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2005

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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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 to the General Assembly by a  
8 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to  
9 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 of the Senate, 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 of the House, appointed by the Speaker of the  
18 House;

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

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

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

23 (iii) A representative of the Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis  
24 and Research at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County;

25 (iv) A representative of the State Board of Elections; and

1 (v) Three other individuals, chosen from among individuals and  
2 organizations with a demonstrated record of strong civic and community involvement  
3 and participation in the electoral process; and

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

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

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

9 (e) The Commission shall:

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

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

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

19 (4) Suggest any constitutional or statutory changes that it concludes are  
20 desirable in order to improve the redistricting process in Maryland to ensure that, to  
21 the greatest extent practicable, General Assembly and congressional districts are  
22 compact, contiguous, and respectful of the State's natural boundaries.

23 (f) On or before December 31, 2006, the Commission shall report its findings  
24 and recommendations, including any proposed changes to the Maryland Constitution  
25 or any statutory changes to the Maryland election law, to the Governor and, subject to  
26 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly for consideration  
27 by the General Assembly in the 2007 Session.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
29 July 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June  
30 30, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
31 abrogated and of no further force and effect.