

# HOUSE BILL 970

G1, P5

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

4lr2317

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By: **Delegate Hogan**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2014

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly and Congressional Legislative Redistricting and**  
3 **Apportionment Commission**

4 FOR the purpose of creating the General Assembly and Congressional Legislative  
5 Redistricting and Apportionment Commission; requiring the Commission to  
6 divide the State to create certain General Assembly and congressional  
7 legislative districts; providing for the membership, qualifications, and duties of  
8 the Commission; specifying certain requirements for the adoption of  
9 redistricting plans by the Commission; specifying that the redistricting plans  
10 meet certain standards and requirements; prohibiting the Commission from  
11 considering certain factors in adopting redistricting plans; requiring the  
12 Legislative Auditor to establish and administer an application process for  
13 individuals seeking appointment to the Commission; prohibiting certain  
14 individuals from serving as a member of the Commission; authorizing the  
15 Legislative Auditor to disqualify certain applicants seeking membership on the  
16 Commission; requiring the Legislative Auditor to establish an Applicant Review  
17 Panel to identify and establish certain applicant pools from which certain  
18 members of the Commission are to be selected; authorizing the presiding officer  
19 and the minority leader in each House of the General Assembly to strike certain  
20 names from the applicant pools; requiring the Legislative Auditor to select at  
21 random a certain number of names from the applicant pools for membership on  
22 the Commission; requiring certain Commission members to select the  
23 remaining members of the Commission from the applicant pools in a certain  
24 manner; requiring the Commission to elect a chair and establish certain rules  
25 and procedures; making Commission meetings and records subject to State laws  
26 governing open meetings and public records; providing that the maps drawn by  
27 the Commission are final and subject to review by the Court of Appeals;  
28 specifying that the Court of Appeals shall appoint a panel of special masters to  
29 draw General Assembly and congressional district lines under certain  
30 circumstances; specifying that certain maps certified by the Court of Appeals  
31 may not be subject to referendum under certain provisions of the Maryland

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Constitution; specifying that the Commission shall have certain staff and other  
2 resources; requiring the Governor to include certain funds for the Commission  
3 in the State budget; defining certain terms; submitting this amendment to the  
4 qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection; and generally  
5 relating to the General Assembly and Congressional Legislative Redistricting  
6 and Apportionment Commission.

7 BY proposing a repeal of the Maryland Constitution  
8 Article III – Legislative Department  
9 Section 5

10 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution  
11 Article III – Legislative Department  
12 Section 5

13 BY adding to  
14 Article – Election Law  
15 Section 8–7A–01 through 8–7A–13 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 7A.  
16 General Assembly and Congressional Legislative Redistricting and  
17 Apportionment Commission”  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
21 MARYLAND, (Three–fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses  
22 concurring), That it be proposed that the Maryland Constitution read as follows:

23 **Article III – Legislative Department**

24 [5.

25 Following each decennial census of the United States and after public hearings,  
26 the Governor shall prepare a plan setting forth the boundaries of the legislative  
27 districts for electing of the members of the Senate and the House of Delegates.

28 The Governor shall present the plan to the President of the Senate and Speaker  
29 of the House of Delegates who shall introduce the Governor’s plan as a joint resolution  
30 to the General Assembly, not later than the first day of its regular session in the  
31 second year following every census, and the Governor may call a special session for the  
32 presentation of his plan prior to the regular session. The plan shall conform to  
33 Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this Article. Following each decennial census the General  
34 Assembly may by joint resolution adopt a plan setting forth the boundaries of the  
35 legislative districts for the election of members of the Senate and the House of  
36 Delegates, which plan shall conform to Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this Article. If a plan has  
37 been adopted by the General Assembly by the 45th day after the opening of the  
38 regular session of the General Assembly in the second year following every census, the  
39 plan adopted by the General Assembly shall become law. If no plan has been adopted

1 by the General Assembly for these purposes by the 45th day after the opening of the  
2 regular session of the General Assembly in the second year following every census, the  
3 Governor's plan presented to the General Assembly shall become law.

4 Upon petition of any registered voter, the Court of Appeals shall have original  
5 jurisdiction to review the legislative districting of the State and may grant appropriate  
6 relief, if it finds that the districting of the State is not consistent with requirements of  
7 either the Constitution of the United States of America, or the Constitution of  
8 Maryland.]

9 **5.**

10 **(A) IN THE YEAR FOLLOWING EACH DECENNIAL CENSUS OF THE**  
11 **UNITED STATES OR WHEN REQUIRED BY THE UNITED STATES OR BY COURT**  
12 **ORDER, A GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE**  
13 **REDISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION SHALL BE APPOINTED:**

14 **(1) TO DIVIDE THE STATE INTO CONSECUTIVELY NUMBERED**  
15 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS THAT CONFORM TO SECTIONS 2,**  
16 **3, AND 4 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND**

17 **(2) TO DIVIDE THE STATE TO CREATE AS MANY CONGRESSIONAL**  
18 **DISTRICTS AS THERE ARE REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS APPORTIONED TO**  
19 **THE STATE.**

20 **(B) (1) GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE**  
21 **DISTRICTS SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION**  
22 **OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THIS CONSTITUTION.**

23 **(2) GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS SHALL BE AS**  
24 **NEARLY EQUAL IN POPULATION AS PRACTICAL, BUT MAY NOT DEVIATE MORE**  
25 **THAN 10% IN POPULATION BETWEEN DISTRICTS.**

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland  
27 read as follows:

28 **Article – Election Law**

29 **SUBTITLE 7A. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE**  
30 **REDISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION.**

31 **8-7A-01.**

32 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**

1 INDICATED.

2 (B) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND  
3 CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION.

4 (C) "DAY" MEANS A CALENDAR DAY, EXCEPT THAT IF THE FINAL DAY OF  
5 A PERIOD WITHIN WHICH AN ACT IS TO BE PERFORMED IS A SATURDAY,  
6 SUNDAY, OR HOLIDAY, THE PERIOD IS EXTENDED TO THE NEXT DAY THAT IS  
7 NOT A SATURDAY, SUNDAY, OR HOLIDAY.

8 (D) "PANEL" MEANS THE APPLICANT REVIEW PANEL.

9 (E) "QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT AUDITOR" MEANS AN AUDITOR WHO IS  
10 CURRENTLY LICENSED BY THE STATE AND HAS BEEN A PRACTICING  
11 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS BEFORE APPOINTMENT TO  
12 THE APPLICANT REVIEW PANEL.

13 8-7A-02.

14 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

15 (1) UNDER CURRENT LAW, THE GOVERNOR AND THE MEMBERS  
16 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DRAW:

17 (I) THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS FOR THE MEMBERS OF  
18 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND

19 (II) THE DISTRICTS FOR THE STATE'S REPRESENTATIVES IN  
20 CONGRESS;

21 (2) ALLOWING POLITICIANS TO DRAW GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
22 LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IS A SERIOUS  
23 CONFLICT OF INTEREST THAT HARMS VOTERS AND HAS RESULTED IN A LARGE  
24 PERCENTAGE OF INCUMBENT POLITICIANS BEING REELECTED IN THE  
25 DISTRICTS THAT WERE DRAWN BY THEM IN THE RECENT ELECTIONS;

26 (3) POLITICIANS OFTEN DRAW DISTRICTS THAT SERVE THEIR  
27 INTERESTS, NOT THOSE OF THE STATE'S COMMUNITIES, SOMETIMES  
28 RESULTING IN COMMUNITIES BEING SPLIT INTO AS MANY AS FOUR DIFFERENT  
29 DISTRICTS TO PROTECT INCUMBENT LEGISLATORS RATHER THAN KEEPING  
30 COMMUNITIES TOGETHER SO EVERYONE HAS REPRESENTATION;

31 (4) THIS REFORM WILL:

1                   **(I) MAKE THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS OPEN SO IT**  
2 **CANNOT BE CONTROLLED BY THE PARTY IN POWER;**

3                   **(II) GIVE THE STATE'S CITIZENS AN EQUAL NUMBER OF**  
4 **DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS ON THE COMMISSION;**

5                   **(III) ENSURE FULL PARTICIPATION OF INDEPENDENT**  
6 **VOTERS WHOSE VOICES ARE COMPLETELY SHUT OUT OF THE CURRENT**  
7 **PROCESS; AND**

8                   **(IV) REQUIRE SUPPORT FROM DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS,**  
9 **AND INDEPENDENTS FOR APPROVAL OF NEW REDISTRICTING PLANS;**

10                   **(5) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONGRESSIONAL**  
11 **REDISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION WILL:**

12                   **(I) DRAW DISTRICTS BASED ON STRICT, NONPARTISAN**  
13 **RULES DESIGNED TO ENSURE FAIR REPRESENTATION;**

14                   **(II) TAKE REDISTRICTING OUT OF THE PARTISAN BATTLES**  
15 **OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;**

16                   **(III) GUARANTEE THAT REDISTRICTING WILL BE DEBATED IN**  
17 **THE OPEN WITH PUBLIC MEETINGS; AND**

18                   **(IV) ENSURE THAT ALL MINUTES WILL BE POSTED PUBLICLY**  
19 **ON THE INTERNET AND THAT EVERY ASPECT OF THE PROCESS WILL BE OPEN TO**  
20 **SCRUTINY BY THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS; AND**

21                   **(6) THIS REFORM WILL NEGATE THE DEFECT IN THE CURRENT**  
22 **PROCESS THAT ALLOWS POLITICIANS TO CHOOSE THEIR VOTERS RATHER THAN**  
23 **ALLOWING THE VOTERS TO HAVE A REAL CHOICE, AND AS A RESULT WILL PUT**  
24 **THE VOTERS BACK IN CHARGE OF THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS.**

25 **8-7A-03.**

26                   **(A) IN THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE YEAR IN WHICH THE NATIONAL**  
27 **CENSUS IS TAKEN UNDER THE DIRECTION OF CONGRESS AT THE BEGINNING OF**  
28 **EACH DECADE, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADJUST THE BOUNDARY LINES OF**  
29 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IN CONFORMANCE WITH**  
30 **THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS AND PROCESS:**

1           (1) (I) EACH MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND SHALL  
2 BE ELECTED FROM A SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT; AND

3           (II) A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES MAY BE  
4 ELECTED FROM A SINGLE MEMBER OR A MULTIMEMBER DISTRICT;

5           (2) EACH MEMBER OF CONGRESS SHALL BE ELECTED FROM A  
6 SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT;

7           (3) THE POPULATION OF EACH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
8 LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT SHALL BE REASONABLY EQUAL IN POPULATION;

9           (4) THE POPULATION OF ALL CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS SHALL  
10 BE EQUAL TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE; AND

11           (5) GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND  
12 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF §  
13 8-7A-05(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

14           (B) (1) FOLLOWING THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION  
15 (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADJUST THE BOUNDARY LINES  
16 ACCORDING TO THE CRITERIA SET FORTH AND PRIORITIZED IN THIS SUBTITLE.

17           (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE WITH THE FINAL MAPS A  
18 REPORT THAT:

19           (I) EXPLAINS THE BASIS ON WHICH THE COMMISSION  
20 MADE THE DECISIONS IN ACHIEVING COMPLIANCE WITH THE CRITERIA; AND

21           (II) INCLUDES DEFINITIONS OF THE TERMS AND  
22 STANDARDS USED IN DRAWING THE FINAL MAPS.

23           (C) GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS SHALL BE  
24 NUMBERED CONSECUTIVELY COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWESTERN BOUNDARY  
25 OF THE STATE AND ENDING AT THE SOUTHEASTERN BOUNDARY.

26           (D) IN DEVELOPING THE MAPS, THE COMMISSION SHALL:

27           (1) HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS;

28           (2) PROVIDE ACCESS TO REDISTRICTING DATA AND SOFTWARE;

29 AND

1           **(3) OTHERWISE ENSURE FULL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE**  
2 **REDISTRICTING PROCESS.**

3 **8-7A-04.**

4           **(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

5                   **(1) CONDUCT AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT PROCESS ENABLING**  
6 **FULL PUBLIC CONSIDERATION OF AND COMMENT ON THE DRAWING OF**  
7 **DISTRICT LINES;**

8                   **(2) DRAW GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**  
9 **LINES ACCORDING TO THE REDISTRICTING CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN THIS**  
10 **SUBTITLE; AND**

11                   **(3) CONDUCT ITS BUSINESS WITH INTEGRITY AND FAIRNESS.**

12           **(B) (1) THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE COMMISSION IS**  
13 **DESIGNED TO PRODUCE A COMMISSION THAT IS INDEPENDENT FROM**  
14 **LEGISLATIVE INFLUENCE AND REASONABLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE'S**  
15 **DIVERSITY.**

16                   **(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING 14**  
17 **MEMBERS:**

18                           **(I) FIVE MEMBERS REGISTERED WITH THE POLITICAL**  
19 **PARTY THAT HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE**  
20 **STATE;**

21                           **(II) FIVE MEMBERS REGISTERED WITH THE POLITICAL**  
22 **PARTY THAT HAS THE SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN**  
23 **THE STATE; AND**

24                           **(III) FOUR MEMBERS NOT REGISTERED WITH EITHER OF THE**  
25 **TWO POLITICAL PARTIES THAT HAVE THE HIGHEST AND SECOND-HIGHEST**  
26 **NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE.**

27           **(3) EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

28                           **(I) BE A VOTER WHO HAS BEEN REGISTERED**  
29 **CONTINUOUSLY IN THE STATE WITH THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY OR**  
30 **UNAFFILIATED WITH A POLITICAL PARTY AND WHO HAS NOT CHANGED**  
31 **POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION FOR 5 OR MORE YEARS IMMEDIATELY**

1 PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S APPOINTMENT; AND

2 (II) HAVE VOTED IN TWO OF THE LAST THREE STATEWIDE  
3 GENERAL ELECTIONS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE INDIVIDUAL'S  
4 APPLICATION.

5 (4) THE TERM OF OFFICE OF EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION  
6 EXPIRES ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FIRST MEMBER OF THE SUCCEEDING  
7 COMMISSION.

8 (5) (I) NINE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL  
9 CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

10 (II) NINE OR MORE AFFIRMATIVE VOTES OF THE  
11 COMMISSION SHALL BE REQUIRED FOR ANY OFFICIAL ACTION.

12 (III) THE FINAL PROPOSED MAPS ADOPTED BY THE  
13 COMMISSION EACH SHALL BE APPROVED BY AT LEAST NINE AFFIRMATIVE  
14 VOTES THAT MUST INCLUDE AT LEAST THREE VOTES BY EACH OF THE  
15 FOLLOWING GROUPS:

16 1. MEMBERS REGISTERED WITH THE POLITICAL  
17 PARTY THAT HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE  
18 STATE;

19 2. MEMBERS REGISTERED WITH THE POLITICAL  
20 PARTY THAT HAS THE SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN  
21 THE STATE; AND

22 3. MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT REGISTERED WITH  
23 EITHER OF THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES THAT HAVE THE HIGHEST AND  
24 SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE.

25 (6) EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL:

26 (I) APPLY THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE IN A  
27 MANNER THAT IS IMPARTIAL AND THAT REINFORCES PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN  
28 THE INTEGRITY OF THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS;

29 (II) BE INELIGIBLE FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS BEGINNING  
30 FROM THE DATE OF APPOINTMENT TO HOLD ELECTIVE PUBLIC OFFICE AT THE  
31 FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL LEVEL IN THE STATE; AND



1                   **(III) BE INELIGIBLE FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS BEGINNING**  
2 **FROM THE DATE OF APPOINTMENT:**

3                   **1. TO HOLD APPOINTIVE FEDERAL, STATE, OR**  
4 **LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICE;**

5                   **2. TO SERVE AS PAID STAFF FOR THE GENERAL**  
6 **ASSEMBLY OR ANY INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATOR; OR**

7                   **3. TO REGISTER AS A FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, OR**  
8 **MUNICIPAL LOBBYIST IN THE STATE.**

9 **8-7A-05.**

10           **(A) (1) EACH GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT SHALL**  
11 **COMPLY WITH ARTICLE III, §§ 2, 3, AND 4 OF THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION.**

12                   **(2) EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SHALL:**

13                   **(I) COMPLY WITH THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION;**

14                   **(II) BE EQUAL IN POPULATION, EXCEPT WHERE DEVIATION**  
15 **IS REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE FEDERAL VOTING RIGHTS ACT (42 U.S.C.**  
16 **SEC. 1971 AND FOLLOWING) OR ALLOWABLE BY LAW;**

17                   **(III) COMPLY WITH THE FEDERAL VOTING RIGHTS ACT;**

18                   **(IV) BE GEOGRAPHICALLY CONTIGUOUS;**

19                   **(V) WITHOUT VIOLATING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS**  
20 **SECTION, RESPECT THE GEOGRAPHIC INTEGRITY OF ANY MUNICIPAL**  
21 **CORPORATION OR COUNTY, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE; AND**

22                   **(VI) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, AND IF IT DOES NOT**  
23 **CONFLICT WITH THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN ITEMS (I) THROUGH (V) OF THIS**  
24 **PARAGRAPH, BE DRAWN TO ENCOURAGE GEOGRAPHICAL COMPACTNESS SO**  
25 **THAT NEARBY AREAS OF POPULATION ARE NOT BYPASSED FOR MORE DISTANT**  
26 **POPULATION.**

27           **(B) (1) THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE OF AN INCUMBENT**  
28 **OFFICEHOLDER OR THE CANDIDATE FOR A POLITICAL PARTY MAY NOT BE**  
29 **CONSIDERED IN THE CREATION OF A MAP.**

1           **(2) A DISTRICT MAY NOT BE DRAWN FOR THE PURPOSE OF**  
2 **FAVORING OR DISCRIMINATING AGAINST AN INCUMBENT OFFICEHOLDER, A**  
3 **CANDIDATE, OR A POLITICAL PARTY.**

4           **(C) BY SEPTEMBER 15 OF EACH YEAR ENDING IN THE NUMBER ONE,**  
5 **THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE A FINAL MAP THAT SEPARATELY SETS**  
6 **FORTH THE DISTRICT BOUNDARY LINES FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL**  
7 **ASSEMBLY AND FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS OF THIS**  
8 **STATE.**

9           **(D) THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE WITH EACH FINAL MAP A REPORT**  
10 **THAT:**

11           **(1) EXPLAINS THE BASIS ON WHICH THE COMMISSION MADE ITS**  
12 **DECISIONS TO ACHIEVE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED UNDER**  
13 **THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

14           **(2) INCLUDES DEFINITIONS OF THE TERMS AND STANDARDS**  
15 **USED IN DRAWING EACH FINAL MAP.**

16           **(E) ON THE ADOPTION OF A FINAL MAP BY THE COMMISSION, THE**  
17 **SECRETARY OF STATE IMMEDIATELY SHALL PETITION THE COURT OF APPEALS**  
18 **FOR REVIEW AND ASK FOR A DECLARATORY RULING ON THE VALIDITY OF THE**  
19 **MAP.**

20           **(F) (1) IF THE COURT OF APPEALS DOES NOT APPROVE A FINAL MAP**  
21 **SUBMITTED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, OR**  
22 **IF THE COMMISSION DOES NOT APPROVE A FINAL MAP FOR GENERAL**  
23 **ASSEMBLY OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS BY AT LEAST THE REQUISITE VOTES**  
24 **REQUIRED UNDER § 8-7A-04(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE**  
25 **IMMEDIATELY SHALL PETITION THE COURT AND ASK FOR THE APPOINTMENT**  
26 **OF A PANEL OF SPECIAL MASTERS TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY LINES OF THE**  
27 **DEFICIENT MAP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REDISTRICTING CRITERIA AND**  
28 **REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

29           **(2) ON THE COURT'S APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL MASTERS' MAP,**  
30 **THE COURT SHALL CERTIFY THE RESULTING MAP TO THE SECRETARY OF**  
31 **STATE AND THE MAP SHALL CONSTITUTE THE CERTIFIED FINAL MAP FOR THE**  
32 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS, AS APPROPRIATE.**

33           **(G) A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP**  
34 **CERTIFIED AS FINAL BY THE COURT OF APPEALS UNDER THIS SECTION MAY**  
35 **NOT BE SUBJECT TO REFERENDUM UNDER THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION.**

1 8-7A-06.

2 (A) THE COMMISSION:

3 (1) HAS THE SOLE LEGAL STANDING TO DEFEND ANY ACTION  
4 REGARDING A CERTIFIED FINAL MAP; AND

5 (2) SHALL INFORM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IF THE  
6 COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT FUNDS OR OTHER RESOURCES PROVIDED FOR  
7 THE OPERATION OF THE COMMISSION ARE NOT ADEQUATE.

8 (B) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO  
9 DEFEND ANY ACTION REGARDING A CERTIFIED MAP.

10 (C) THE COMMISSION HAS SOLE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE WHETHER  
11 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR OTHER LEGAL COUNSEL RETAINED BY THE  
12 COMMISSION SHALL ASSIST IN THE DEFENSE OF A CERTIFIED FINAL MAP.

13 (D) (1) THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS ORIGINAL AND EXCLUSIVE  
14 JURISDICTION IN ALL PROCEEDINGS IN WHICH A CERTIFIED FINAL MAP IS  
15 CHALLENGED.

16 (2) ANY REGISTERED VOTER IN THE STATE MAY FILE A PETITION  
17 FOR A WRIT OF MANDAMUS OR A WRIT OF PROHIBITION, WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER  
18 THE COMMISSION HAS CERTIFIED A FINAL MAP TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
19 TO BAR THE SECRETARY OF STATE FROM IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN ON THE  
20 GROUNDS THAT THE FILED PLAN VIOLATES THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION,  
21 THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, OR ANY FEDERAL OR STATE STATUTE.

22 (E) (1) THE COURT OF APPEALS SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO RULING  
23 ON A PETITION FOR A WRIT OF MANDAMUS OR A WRIT OF PROHIBITION FILED  
24 UNDER THIS SECTION.

25 (2) IF THE COURT DETERMINES THAT A CERTIFIED FINAL MAP  
26 VIOLATES THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION, THE UNITED STATES  
27 CONSTITUTION, OR ANY FEDERAL OR STATE STATUTE, THE COURT SHALL  
28 ESTABLISH THE RELIEF THAT IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

29 8-7A-07.

30 TO AMEND THIS SUBTITLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ENSURE  
31 THAT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET:

1           (1) BY THE SAME VOTE REQUIRED FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE  
2 FINAL SET OF MAPS, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS AMENDMENTS TO THIS  
3 SUBTITLE TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSE AND INTENT;

4           (2) THE EXACT LANGUAGE OF THE AMENDMENTS PROVIDED BY  
5 THE COMMISSION IS ENACTED AS A STATUTE APPROVED BY A TWO-THIRDS  
6 VOTE OF EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SIGNED BY THE  
7 GOVERNOR;

8           (3) THE BILL CONTAINING THE AMENDMENTS PROVIDED BY THE  
9 COMMISSION IS IN PRINT FOR 10 DAYS BEFORE FINAL PASSAGE BY THE  
10 GENERAL ASSEMBLY;

11           (4) THE AMENDMENTS FURTHER THE PURPOSES OF THIS  
12 SUBTITLE; AND

13           (5) THE AMENDMENTS ARE NOT PASSED BY THE GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY IN A YEAR ENDING IN THE NUMBER ZERO OR THE NUMBER ONE.

15 8-7A-08.

16           (A) (1) IN EACH YEAR ENDING IN THE NUMBER ZERO, THE  
17 LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR SHALL INITIATE AN APPLICATION PROCESS THAT IS  
18 OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE IN A MANNER THAT  
19 PROMOTES A DIVERSE AND QUALIFIED APPLICANT POOL FOR MEMBERSHIP ON  
20 THE COMMISSION.

21           (2) THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR SHALL REMOVE FROM THE  
22 APPLICANT POOL INDIVIDUALS WITH CONFLICTS OF INTEREST INCLUDING,  
23 WITHIN THE 5 YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF APPLICATION,  
24 THE APPLICANT, OR A MEMBER OF THE APPLICANT'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY, WHO  
25 HAS DONE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

26                   (I) BEEN APPOINTED TO, BEEN ELECTED TO, OR BEEN A  
27 CANDIDATE FOR FEDERAL OR STATE OFFICE;

28                   (II) SERVED AS AN OFFICER, AN EMPLOYEE, OR A PAID  
29 CONSULTANT OF A POLITICAL PARTY OR OF THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE OF A  
30 CANDIDATE FOR ELECTIVE FEDERAL OR STATE OFFICE;

31                   (III) SERVED AS AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED MEMBER OF A  
32 POLITICAL PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE;

1 (IV) BEEN A REGISTERED LOBBYIST FOR THE FEDERAL,  
2 STATE, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT;

3 (V) SERVED AS PAID CONGRESSIONAL OR GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY STAFF; OR

5 (VI) CONTRIBUTED \$2,000 OR MORE TO ANY CANDIDATE  
6 FOR ELECTION TO A CONGRESSIONAL, STATE, OR LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICE IN ANY  
7 YEAR, WHICH AMOUNT SHALL BE ADJUSTED EVERY 10 YEARS BY THE  
8 CUMULATIVE CHANGE IN THE MARYLAND CONSUMER PRICE INDEX OR ITS  
9 SUCCESSOR.

10 (3) (I) IN THIS PARAGRAPH, "IMMEDIATE FAMILY  
11 RELATIONSHIP" MEANS A RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED THROUGH BLOOD OR  
12 LEGAL RELATION.

13 (II) STAFF AND CONSULTANTS TO PERSONS UNDER A  
14 CONTRACT WITH, OR ANY PERSON WITH AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP  
15 TO, THE GOVERNOR, A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, OR A MEMBER OF  
16 CONGRESS MAY NOT SERVE AS A COMMISSION MEMBER.

17 (B) (1) THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR SHALL:

18 (I) ESTABLISH AN APPLICANT REVIEW PANEL CONSISTING  
19 OF THREE QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO SCREEN APPLICANTS TO  
20 SERVE ON THE COMMISSION;

21 (II) RANDOMLY DRAW THE NAMES OF THREE QUALIFIED  
22 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS FROM A POOL CONSISTING OF ALL AUDITORS  
23 EMPLOYED BY THE STATE AND LICENSED BY THE STATE AT THE TIME OF THE  
24 DRAWING; AND

25 (III) DRAW UNTIL THE NAMES OF THREE AUDITORS HAVE  
26 BEEN DRAWN INCLUDING:

27 1. ONE WHO IS REGISTERED WITH THE POLITICAL  
28 PARTY THAT HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE  
29 STATE;

30 2. ONE WHO IS REGISTERED WITH THE POLITICAL  
31 PARTY THAT HAS THE SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN  
32 THE STATE; AND

1                   **3. ONE WHO IS NOT REGISTERED WITH EITHER OF**  
2 **THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES THAT HAVE THE HIGHEST AND SECOND-HIGHEST**  
3 **NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE.**

4                   **(2) (I) AFTER THE DRAWING, THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR**  
5 **SHALL NOTIFY THE THREE QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT AUDITORS WHOSE NAMES**  
6 **HAVE BEEN DRAWN THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO SERVE ON THE**  
7 **PANEL.**

8                   **(II) IF ANY OF THE THREE QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT**  
9 **AUDITORS DECLINE TO SERVE ON THE PANEL, THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR**  
10 **SHALL RESUME THE RANDOM DRAWING UNTIL THREE QUALIFIED**  
11 **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS WHO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE**  
12 **HAVE AGREED TO SERVE ON THE PANEL.**

13                   **(III) A MEMBER OF THE PANEL SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE**  
14 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.**

15                   **(3) THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR SHALL PUBLICIZE, NO LATER**  
16 **THAN AUGUST 1 IN EACH YEAR ENDING IN THE NUMBER ZERO, THE NAMES IN**  
17 **THE APPLICANT POOL AND PROVIDE COPIES OF THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE**  
18 **PANEL AFTER REMOVING INDIVIDUALS WITH CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FROM**  
19 **THE APPLICANT POOL FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMISSION.**

20                   **(4) (I) FROM THE APPLICANT POOL FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE**  
21 **COMMISSION, THE PANEL SHALL SELECT 60 OF THE MOST QUALIFIED**  
22 **APPLICANTS, INCLUDING:**

23                   **1. 20 WHO ARE REGISTERED WITH THE POLITICAL**  
24 **PARTY THAT HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE**  
25 **STATE;**

26                   **2. 20 WHO ARE REGISTERED WITH THE POLITICAL**  
27 **PARTY THAT HAS THE SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN**  
28 **THE STATE; AND**

29                   **3. 20 WHO ARE NOT REGISTERED WITH EITHER OF**  
30 **THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES THAT HAVE THE HIGHEST OR SECOND-HIGHEST**  
31 **NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE.**

32                   **(II) THE SUBPOOLS SHALL BE CREATED ON THE BASIS OF**  
33 **RELEVANT ANALYTICAL SKILLS, ABILITY TO BE IMPARTIAL, AND APPRECIATION**

1 FOR THE STATE'S DIVERSE DEMOGRAPHICS AND GEOGRAPHY.

2 (III) THE MEMBERS OF THE PANEL MAY NOT COMMUNICATE  
3 WITH ANY MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR THE CONGRESS OR THEIR  
4 REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT ANY MATTER RELATED TO THE NOMINATION  
5 PROCESS OR APPLICANTS BEFORE THE PRESENTATION BY THE PANEL OF THE  
6 POOL OF RECOMMENDED APPLICANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND  
7 THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

8 (C) (1) BY OCTOBER 1 IN EACH YEAR ENDING IN THE NUMBER ZERO,  
9 THE PANEL SHALL PRESENT ITS POOL OF RECOMMENDED APPLICANTS TO THE  
10 SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

11 (2) (I) NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 15 IN EACH YEAR ENDING  
12 IN THE NUMBER ZERO, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE MINORITY  
13 LEADER OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, AND THE MINORITY  
14 LEADER OF THE HOUSE EACH MAY STRIKE UP TO TWO APPLICANTS FROM EACH  
15 SUBPOOL OF 20 FOR A TOTAL OF EIGHT POSSIBLE STRIKES PER SUBPOOL.

16 (II) AFTER ALL LEGISLATIVE LEADERS HAVE EXERCISED  
17 THEIR STRIKES, THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE CHIEF CLERK OF  
18 THE HOUSE JOINTLY SHALL PRESENT THE REMAINING NAMES IN THE  
19 APPLICANT POOL TO THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR.

20 (D) (1) NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 20 IN EACH YEAR ENDING IN THE  
21 NUMBER ZERO, THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR SHALL RANDOMLY DRAW EIGHT  
22 NAMES FROM THE REMAINING NAMES IN THE APPLICANT POOL AS FOLLOWS:

23 (I) THREE FROM THE REMAINING SUBPOOL OF  
24 APPLICANTS REGISTERED WITH THE POLITICAL PARTY THAT HAS THE HIGHEST  
25 NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE;

26 (II) THREE FROM THE REMAINING SUBPOOL OF  
27 APPLICANTS REGISTERED WITH THE POLITICAL PARTY THAT HAS THE  
28 SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE; AND

29 (III) TWO FROM THE REMAINING SUBPOOL OF APPLICANTS  
30 WHO ARE NOT REGISTERED WITH EITHER OF THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES  
31 THAT HAVE THE HIGHEST OR SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED  
32 VOTERS IN THE STATE.

33 (2) THE EIGHT INDIVIDUALS SELECTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)  
34 OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL SERVE ON THE COMMISSION.

1           **(E) (1) NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31 IN EACH YEAR ENDING IN THE**  
2 **NUMBER ZERO, THE EIGHT COMMISSIONERS SHALL REVIEW THE REMAINING**  
3 **NAMES IN THE APPLICANT POOL AND APPOINT SIX APPLICANTS TO THE**  
4 **COMMISSION AS FOLLOWS:**

5                   **(I) TWO FROM THE REMAINING SUBPOOL OF APPLICANTS**  
6 **REGISTERED WITH THE POLITICAL PARTY THAT HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF**  
7 **REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE;**

8                   **(II) TWO FROM THE REMAINING SUBPOOL OF APPLICANTS**  
9 **REGISTERED WITH THE POLITICAL PARTY THAT HAS THE SECOND-HIGHEST**  
10 **NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE; AND**

11                   **(III) TWO FROM THE REMAINING SUBPOOL OF APPLICANTS**  
12 **WHO ARE NOT REGISTERED WITH EITHER OF THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES**  
13 **THAT HAVE THE HIGHEST OR SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED**  
14 **VOTERS IN THE STATE.**

15           **(2) (I) THE SIX APPOINTEES SHALL BE APPROVED BY AT LEAST**  
16 **FIVE AFFIRMATIVE VOTES, INCLUDING AT LEAST TWO VOTES OF**  
17 **COMMISSIONERS REGISTERED FROM EACH OF THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES**  
18 **THAT HAVE THE HIGHEST AND SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED**  
19 **VOTERS IN THE STATE AND ONE VOTE FROM A COMMISSIONER WHO IS NOT**  
20 **AFFILIATED WITH EITHER OF THESE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES.**

21                   **(II) 1. THE SIX APPOINTEES SHALL BE CHOSEN TO**  
22 **ENSURE THE COMMISSION REFLECTS THE STATE'S DIVERSITY, INCLUDING**  
23 **RACIAL, ETHNIC, GEOGRAPHIC, AND GENDER DIVERSITY.**

24                   **2. APPLICANTS SHALL ALSO BE CHOSEN BASED ON**  
25 **RELEVANT ANALYTICAL SKILLS AND THE ABILITY TO BE IMPARTIAL.**

26 **8-7A-09.**

27           **(A) (1) IN THE EVENT OF SUBSTANTIAL NEGLECT OF DUTY, GROSS**  
28 **MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE, OR INABILITY TO DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF OFFICE,**  
29 **A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY BE REMOVED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH**  
30 **THE CONCURRENCE OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AFTER**  
31 **HAVING BEEN SERVED WRITTEN NOTICE AND PROVIDED WITH AN OPPORTUNITY**  
32 **FOR A RESPONSE.**

33           **(2) A FINDING OF SUBSTANTIAL NEGLECT OF DUTY OR GROSS**



1 MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE MAY RESULT IN REFERRAL TO THE ATTORNEY  
2 GENERAL FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OR THE APPROPRIATE  
3 ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY FOR INVESTIGATION.

4 (B) (1) A VACANCY, WHETHER CREATED BY REMOVAL, RESIGNATION,  
5 OR ABSENCE, IN A COMMISSION POSITION SHALL BE FILLED WITHIN 30 DAYS  
6 AFTER THE VACANCY OCCURS FROM THE POOL OF APPLICANTS OF THE SAME  
7 VOTER REGISTRATION CATEGORY AS THE VACATING NOMINEE THAT WAS  
8 REMAINING AS OF NOVEMBER 20 IN THE YEAR IN WHICH THAT POOL WAS  
9 ESTABLISHED.

10 (2) IF NONE OF THE REMAINING APPLICANTS UNDER PARAGRAPH  
11 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ARE AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE, THE LEGISLATIVE  
12 AUDITOR SHALL FILL THE VACANCY FROM A NEW POOL CREATED FOR THE  
13 SAME VOTER REGISTRATION CATEGORY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 8-7A-08 OF  
14 THIS SUBTITLE.

15 8-7A-10.

16 (A) (1) THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION ARE SUBJECT TO  
17 APPLICABLE STATE LAW GOVERNING OPEN MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC  
18 INFORMATION.

19 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE NOT LESS THAN 14 DAYS'  
20 PUBLIC NOTICE FOR EACH MEETING, EXCEPT THAT MEETINGS HELD IN  
21 SEPTEMBER IN THE YEAR ENDING IN THE NUMBER ONE MAY BE HELD WITH 3  
22 DAYS' NOTICE.

23 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS  
24 SUBSECTION, COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF MAY NOT COMMUNICATE WITH  
25 OR RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT REDISTRICTING MATTERS FROM  
26 ANYONE OUTSIDE A PUBLIC HEARING.

27 (2) COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COMMISSION MEMBERS, STAFF,  
28 LEGAL COUNSEL, AND CONSULTANTS RETAINED BY THE COMMISSION IS  
29 ALLOWED.

30 (C) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL SELECT ONE OF ITS MEMBERS TO  
31 SERVE AS CHAIR AND ONE TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR.

32 (2) THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR MAY NOT BE OF THE SAME  
33 POLITICAL PARTY.

1           **(D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL**  
2 **PROVIDE PRIMARY STAFF SUPPORT TO THE COMMISSION.**

3           **(2) (I) THE COMMISSION MAY HIRE STAFF, LEGAL COUNSEL,**  
4 **AND CONSULTANTS AS NEEDED.**

5                   **(II) THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH CLEAR CRITERIA**  
6 **FOR THE HIRING AND REMOVAL OF THE INDIVIDUALS SPECIFIED UNDER**  
7 **SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS, AND A**  
8 **CODE OF CONDUCT.**

9                   **(III) THE COMMISSION SHALL ENSURE THAT AT LEAST ONE**  
10 **OF THE LEGAL COUNSEL HIRED BY THE COMMISSION HAS DEMONSTRATED**  
11 **EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN IMPLEMENTATION AND**  
12 **ENFORCEMENT OF THE FEDERAL VOTING RIGHTS ACT (42 U.S.C. SEC. 1971**  
13 **AND FOLLOWING).**

14                   **(IV) THE COMMISSION SHALL MAKE HIRING, REMOVAL, OR**  
15 **CONTRACTING DECISIONS ON STAFF, LEGAL COUNSEL, AND CONSULTANTS BY**  
16 **NINE OR MORE AFFIRMATIVE VOTES INCLUDING AT LEAST THREE VOTES OF**  
17 **MEMBERS REGISTERED FROM EACH OF THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES THAT**  
18 **HAVE THE HIGHEST AND SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS**  
19 **IN THE STATE AND THREE VOTES FROM MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT REGISTERED**  
20 **WITH EITHER OF THESE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES.**

21           **(E) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, AN EMPLOYER**  
22 **MAY NOT DISCHARGE, THREATEN TO DISCHARGE, INTIMIDATE, COERCE, OR**  
23 **RETALIATE AGAINST ANY EMPLOYEE BY REASON OF THE EMPLOYEE'S**  
24 **ATTENDANCE OR SCHEDULED ATTENDANCE AT ANY MEETING OF THE**  
25 **COMMISSION.**

26           **(F) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT AN**  
27 **OPEN HEARING PROCESS FOR PUBLIC INPUT AND DELIBERATION THAT IS:**

28                   **(I) SUBJECT TO PUBLIC NOTICE; AND**

29                   **(II) DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE CITIZEN OUTREACH AND**  
30 **SOLICIT BROAD PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REDISTRICTING PUBLIC REVIEW**  
31 **PROCESS.**

32                   **(2) (I) 1. THE HEARING PROCESS SHALL INCLUDE**  
33 **HEARINGS TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT BEFORE THE COMMISSION DRAWS ANY**  
34 **MAPS AND HEARINGS FOLLOWING THE DRAWING AND DISPLAY OF ANY**

1 COMMISSION MAPS.

2 2. HEARINGS SHALL BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH  
3 OTHER ACTIVITIES AS APPROPRIATE TO FURTHER INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES  
4 FOR THE PUBLIC TO OBSERVE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE REVIEW PROCESS.

5 (II) 1. THE COMMISSION SHALL DISPLAY THE MAPS FOR  
6 PUBLIC COMMENT IN A MANNER DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THE WIDEST PUBLIC  
7 ACCESS REASONABLY POSSIBLE.

8 2. PUBLIC COMMENT SHALL BE TAKEN FOR AT  
9 LEAST 14 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLIC DISPLAY OF ANY MAP.

10 (G) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO  
11 ENSURE THAT A COMPLETE AND ACCURATE COMPUTERIZED DATABASE IS  
12 AVAILABLE FOR REDISTRICTING AND THAT PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE TO  
13 PROVIDE THE PUBLIC READY ACCESS TO REDISTRICTING DATA AND COMPUTER  
14 SOFTWARE FOR DRAWING MAPS.

15 8-7A-11.

16 (A) EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE COMPENSATED AT  
17 THE RATE OF \$300 FOR EACH DAY THE MEMBER IS ENGAGED IN COMMISSION  
18 BUSINESS.

19 (B) (1) FOR EACH SUCCEEDING COMMISSION, THE RATE OF  
20 COMPENSATION SHALL BE ADJUSTED IN EACH YEAR ENDING IN THE NUMBER  
21 NINE BY THE CUMULATIVE CHANGE IN THE MARYLAND CONSUMER PRICE  
22 INDEX OR ITS SUCCESSOR.

23 (2) MEMBERS OF THE PANEL AND THE COMMISSION ARE  
24 ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF PERSONAL EXPENSES INCURRED IN  
25 CONNECTION WITH THE DUTIES PERFORMED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IN  
26 ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS.

27 8-7A-12.

28 (A) IN EACH YEAR ENDING IN THE NUMBER NINE, THE GOVERNOR  
29 SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL  
30 ASSEMBLY FUNDING THAT IS SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE ESTIMATED EXPENSES  
31 OF EACH OF THE OFFICERS OR ENTITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE  
32 REDISTRICTING PROCESS REQUIRED BY THIS SUBTITLE FOR A 3-YEAR PERIOD,  
33 INCLUDING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR A STATEWIDE OUTREACH PROGRAM TO

1 SOLICIT BROAD PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS FOR:

2 (1) THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR;

3 (2) THE COMMISSION;

4 (3) THE SECRETARY OF STATE; AND

5 (4) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES.

6 (B) THE GOVERNOR SHALL MAKE ADEQUATE OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE  
7 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COMMISSION.

8 (C) (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL MAKE THE NECESSARY  
9 APPROPRIATION IN THE STATE BUDGET, AND THE APPROPRIATION SHALL BE  
10 AVAILABLE DURING THE ENTIRE 3-YEAR PERIOD.

11 (2) THE APPROPRIATION SHALL BE EQUAL TO THE GREATER OF  
12 \$3,000,000, OR THE AMOUNT EXPENDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IN THE  
13 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING REDISTRICTING PROCESS, AS EACH AMOUNT IS  
14 ADJUSTED BY THE CUMULATIVE CHANGE IN THE MARYLAND CONSUMER PRICE  
15 INDEX OR ITS SUCCESSOR SINCE THE DATE OF THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING  
16 APPROPRIATION.

17 (D) THE COMMISSION, WITH FISCAL OVERSIGHT FROM THE  
18 DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, SHALL HAVE PROCUREMENT  
19 AND CONTRACTING AUTHORITY AND MAY HIRE STAFF AND CONSULTANTS,  
20 INCLUDING LEGAL REPRESENTATION.

21 8-7A-13.

22 THIS ACT SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE VOTERS FIRST  
23 ACT.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly  
25 determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by this Act  
26 affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the  
27 Maryland Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not  
28 apply.

29 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section  
30 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the  
31 qualified voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2014  
32 for their adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution.

1 At that general election, the vote on this proposed amendment to the Constitution  
2 shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the words “For the  
3 Constitutional Amendment” and “Against the Constitutional Amendment,” as now  
4 provided by law. Immediately after the election, all returns shall be made to the  
5 Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as directed by Article  
6 XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in accordance with  
7 Article XIV.

8 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
9 June 1, 2014.