

HOUSE BILL 610

G1, P5
HB 698/14 – HRU

5lr1776

By: **Delegates McComas, Beitzel, Flanagan, Impallaria, Kittleman, McDonough,
B. Robinson, S. Robinson, and B. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2015

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 report its
6 findings and recommendations, including suggested constitutional and legislative
7 changes, to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date;
8 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Study
9 Commission on the Redistricting Process in Maryland.

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

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

13 (b) The Commission shall consist of the following 15 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 shall
17 be a member of the minority party, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

6 (4) Four members of the general public, appointed jointly by the President
7 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, who have a demonstrated history of strong
8 civic and community engagement and a keen understanding of and respect for community
9 boundaries.

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

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

13 (e) The Commission shall:

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

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

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

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

25 (f) On or before December 31, 2016, the Commission shall report its findings and
26 recommendations, including any proposed changes to the Maryland Constitution or any
27 statutory changes to the Maryland election law, to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246
28 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly for consideration by the General
29 Assembly in the 2017 Session.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
31 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2017,
32 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
33 of no further force and effect.