



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS
COMMITTEE**

HB 1495 Legislative Districts – Standards

POSITION: Support

DATE: March 2, 2020

The League of Women Voters supports a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation of the entire population of state in the General Assembly. Partisan influence in the redistricting process has created unfairness by limiting access to officials in some cases and reducing the measure of accountability elected officials have to their full electorate in others. This bill seeks to prevent these things by removing partisan influence from the redistricting process.

Election maps are meant to be adjusted every ten years after the Census to account for population shifts and ensure each district has substantially equally populations so they can be effectively represented. However, throughout history, politicians on both sides of the aisle have found it difficult to resist the temptation to use the redistricting process to provide their party with an advantage in elections for the coming decade. With the increasingly effective technology our society has developed, politicians today can achieve that advantage with unprecedented precision. This bill would attempt to remove that temptation by completely removing consideration of political affiliation of voters from the equation.

We are all aware of the growing apathy of voters because they believe that the system is rigged, and their vote won't matter. We believe that ignoring partisanship in the redistricting process would help to restore the faith of voters their elected officials.

We urge a favorable report on HB 1495.