

February 28, 2001

H 318. INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMM. TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION. Requires referendum in Nov. 2002 on constitutional amendments creating an Independent Redistricting Comm'n to set General Assembly and Congressional districts. If passed, would establish Comm'n as bipartisan body of nine persons appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (2), Governor (3), Speaker of the House (2) and President Pro Tem of the Senate (2). Terms after the initial term would be ten years. Comm'n members would be precluded from holding elective state office for four years before and after service on the Comm'n. Would require that General Assembly districts created by the Comm'n be geographically compact and, to the extent practical, avoid crossing county boundaries. Comm'n redistricting plans would have the force of law. Requires plans to be created without consideration of political affiliation of voters, voting data from previous elections, the location of incumbents' residences and demographic data other than Census Bureau data.

Intro. by Pope and Weatherly.

Ref. to Rules	CONST
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