

June 17, 2002

S 1437. INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION. TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.

Amends NC Constitution to remove authority of General Assembly to redistrict the state for the purpose of electing members of the General Assembly and members of the US House of Representatives and gives that authority to new Independent Redistricting Commission. Provides for submission of question whether to make this change to voters at general election in Nov. 2002. Adds new Sec. 25 to Art. II of NC Constitution, establishing nine-member Comm'n.

Provides that Comm'n must adopt plans for revising the senate districts and representative districts and US House of Representative district and that these plans have the force and effect of acts of the General Assembly. Prohibits Comm'n from considering political affiliation of voters, voting data from previous elections, location of incumbents' residences, or demographic data from sources other than US Bureau of the Census. Allows use of census racial and ethnic data only to comply with US Constitution and laws. Provides that if a plan adopted by Comm'n is declared invalid, Comm'n must adopt new plan. Permits General Assembly to assign to Comm'n the duty of adopting districting and redistricting plans for any county, city, town, special district, or other governmental subdivision if the governing board of the unit or a court of competent jurisdiction so requests. Amends Sec. 3, Sec. 5, and Subsection (5) of Sec. 22 of Art. II of NC Constitution accordingly.

Intro. by Horton.

To be referred 6-18	GS CONST
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