SENATE BILL 15

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY
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AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; CREATING A JOINT INTERIM LEGISLATIVE
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE CREATED--
TERMINATION.--There is created a joint interim legislative
committee, which shall be known as the "redistricting
committee". The committee may function from the date of its
appointment until January 14, 2022.

SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP--APPOINTMENT--VACANCIES.--The
redistricting committee shall be composed of sixteen members.
Eight members of the house of representatives shall be
appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and
eight members of the senate shall be appointed by the
committees' committee of the senate, or, if the senate
appointment is made in the interim, by the president pro
tempore of the senate after consultation and agreement of a
majority of the members of the committees' committee. Members
shall be appointed from each house so as to give the two major
political parties in each house the same proportional
representation on the committee as prevails in each house;
provided that in no event shall either of the parties have less
than one member from each house on the committee. Vacancies on
the committee shall be filled by appointment in the same manner
as the original appointments. One co-chair shall be selected
by the speaker of the house of representatives and one co-chair
by the committees' committee, or, if the senate appointment is
made in the interim, by the president pro tempore of the senate
after consultation and agreement of a majority of the members
of the committees' committee. No action shall be taken by the
committee if a majority of the total membership from either
house on the committee rejects such action.

SECTION 3. DUTIES.--

A. After appointment of its members, the
redistricting committee shall hold one organizational meeting
to develop a work plan and budget for its interim tasks. The
work plan and budget shall be submitted to the New Mexico
legislative council for approval. Upon approval of the work
plan and budget by the New Mexico legislative council, the
committee shall:
(1) examine the statutes, constitutional provisions, rules and court decisions governing redistricting in New Mexico;

(2) adopt guidelines for redistricting so that the procedures, criteria and standards for redistricting plans meet statutory and constitutional requirements;

(3) conduct public hearings to provide a forum for public involvement in the redistricting process; and

(4) recommend appropriate redistricting legislation to the fifty-fifth legislature.

B. In developing redistricting plans for congressional and state districts, the committee shall use data from the 2020 decennial census.

SECTION 4. SUBCOMMITTEES.--Subcommittees of the redistricting committee shall be created only by majority vote of all members appointed to the committee and with the prior approval of the New Mexico legislative council. A subcommittee shall be composed of at least one member from the senate and one member from the house of representatives, and at least one member of the minority party shall be a member of the subcommittee. All meetings and expenditures of a subcommittee shall be approved by the full committee in advance of such meeting or expenditure, and the approval shall be shown in the minutes of the committee.

SECTION 5. REPORT.--The redistricting committee shall
recommend proposed redistricting plans to a special session of
the fifty-fifth legislature called for the purpose of
redistricting congressional, legislative and public education
commission districts.

SECTION 6. STAFF.--The legislative council service shall
provide staff for the redistricting committee.

SECTION 7. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.