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HOUSE BILL 306

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Edward C. Sandoval

AN ACT

**RELATING TO ELECTIONS; CREATING A JOINT INTERIM LEGISLATIVE
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; 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 shall function from the date of its
appointment until January 14, 2002.**

**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**

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1 committees' committee of the senate, or, if the senate
2 appointment is made in the interim, by the president pro
3 tempore of the senate after consultation and agreement of a
4 majority of the members of the committees' committee. Members
5 shall be appointed from each house so as to give the two major
6 political parties in each house the same proportional
7 representation on the committee as prevails in each house;
8 provided that in no event shall either of the parties have
9 less than one member from each house on the committee.
10 Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by appointment in
11 the same manner as the original appointments. One co-chairman
12 shall be selected by the speaker of the house of
13 representatives and one co-chairman by the committees'
14 committee, or, if the senate appointment is made in the
15 interim, by the president pro tempore of the senate after
16 consultation and agreement of a majority of the members of the
17 committees' committee. No action shall be taken by the
18 committee if a majority of the total membership from either
19 house on the committee rejects such action.

20 Section 3. DUTIES.--

21 A. After appointment of its members, the
22 redistricting committee shall hold one organizational meeting
23 to develop a work plan and budget for its interim tasks. The
24 work plan and budget shall be submitted to the New Mexico
25 legislative council for approval. Upon approval of the work

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1 plan and budget by the legislative council, the committee
2 shall:

3 (1) examine the statutes, constitutional
4 provisions, rules and court decisions governing redistricting
5 in New Mexico;

6 (2) use the guidelines for redistricting
7 adopted by the New Mexico legislative council so that the
8 procedures, criteria and standards for redistricting plans
9 meet statutory and constitutional requirements;

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

12 (4) recommend appropriate redistricting
13 legislation to the forty-fifth legislature.

14 B. In developing redistricting plans for
15 congressional, legislative, public regulation commission,
16 state board of education and magistrate court districts, the
17 committee shall use only one version of federal census bureau
18 data if the census bureau issues more than one version of data
19 for the 2000 decennial census.

20 Section 4. SUBCOMMITTEES. -- Subcommittees of the
21 redistricting committee shall be created only by majority vote
22 of all members appointed to the committee and with the prior
23 approval of the New Mexico legislative council. A
24 subcommittee shall be composed of at least one member from the
25 senate and one member from the house of representatives, and

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1 at least one member of the minority party shall be a member of
2 the subcommittee. All meetings and expenditures of a
3 subcommittee shall be approved by the full committee in
4 advance of such meeting or expenditure, and the approval shall
5 be shown in the minutes of the committee.

6 Section 5. REPORT.--The redistricting committee shall
7 recommend proposed redistricting plans to a special session of
8 the forty-fifth legislature called for the purpose of
9 redistricting congressional, legislative, public regulation
10 commission, state board of education and selected magistrate
11 court districts.

12 Section 6. STAFF.--The legislative council service shall
13 provide staff for the redistricting committee.

14 Section 7. APPROPRIATION.--Fifty thousand dollars
15 (\$50,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
16 legislative council service for expenditure in fiscal years
17 2001 and 2002 for the purposes of staffing the redistricting
18 committee and reimbursing the per diem and mileage expenses of
19 the committee. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
20 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2002 shall revert to the
21 general fund.

22 Section 8. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
23 peace, health and safety that this act take effect
24 immediately.