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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Moores **ORIGINAL DATE** 03/16/21
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** _____
SHORT TITLE Redistricting Commission Funding **SB** 389
ANALYST Nichols

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY21	FY22		
	\$300.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB211 and SB199

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Secretary of State

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 389 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to the State Redistricting Commission in FY22 and FY23, contingent on passage of House Bill 211 or Senate Bill 199.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY23 shall revert to the general fund. Funding would be used for the State Redistricting Commission to carry out its work, pursuant to the Redistricting Act.

SOS notes that based on its fiscal impact analysis for SB199 and HB211, the proposed appropriation of \$300 thousand may be too low to cover all of the expenses and duties outlined in the bills, including costs of contractors, mapping software, IT, and travel costs. SOS also notes that costs associated with redistricting will occur regardless of whether an independent redistricting commission is appointed or not.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for Senate Bill 377 contains appropriations from legislative cash balances of \$1 million for redistricting expenses and \$300 thousand for the Citizen Redistricting Committee, contingent on enactment of SB15&199/SRCS.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB211 and SB199 enact the Redistricting Act. The bills would create the State Redistricting Commission, comprised of seven commissioners. The Redistricting Act requires the commission hold two sets of six meetings – six open meetings to collect information about communities of interest and other information regarding the creation of district plans, followed by six rule-making hearings to adopt district plans, at which the public can offer testimony. After concluding the rule-making hearings, the commission must hold a final meeting at which the commission adopts (1) three to five districts plans for each of the four separate elected bodies; (2) indicates its preferred four plans; and (3) provides corresponding explanatory statements for its actions.

The Senate Rules Committee substitute for Senate Bills 15 and 199 (SB15/SRCS) would create the Redistricting Act and a seven-member Citizen Redistricting Committee tasked with proposing plans for redistricting congressional and legislative voting districts and the voting districts of other state offices requiring redistricting. The committee would present three plans for each to the Legislature with written evaluations by October 30, 2021, or as soon as practicable, and the Legislature would consider the plans “in the same manner as for legislation recommended by interim committees.”

SB389 provides an appropriation for the work of the State Redistricting Commission. However, the combined committee substitute for SB15 and SB199 creates the Citizen Redistricting Committee. It is therefore unclear if the contingent appropriation contained in SB389 would still apply, given that the substitute bill creates a “committee,” rather than a “commission.”

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

As described above, the appropriation in SB389 is contingent on passage of SB199 or HB211. SB199 has been combined with SB15 in a committee substitute bill, and it is not clear if the appropriation in SB389 would still apply.

AN/al