

April 1, 2003

S 651. INDEP. REDIST. COMM./STATUTORY. *TO ESTABLISH BY STATUTE AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TO RECOMMEND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLANS FOR LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING.* Creates GS 120-2.3 to 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. Plans prepared by Comm'n and recommended to the General Assembly must be approved or rejected without amendment. 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. Specifies criteria for legislative and congressional redistricting, including: equal population of districts (with a maximum population deviation of five percent); voting rights of racial minorities not be abridged; districts be contiguous; census blocks not be divided; precinct division and unnecessary division of counties, cities, and other political subdivisions be avoided; districts be geographically compact; communities of interest be preserved; and districts not be drawn to dilute the voting strength of any person, group, or political party nor to favor an incumbent. Requires plans to consider all relevant requirements of the U.S. Constitution and federal law. Allows General Assembly to assign to the Comm'n the duty of creating redistricting plans of any county, municipality or other governmental subdivision.

Intro. by Horton, Kinnaird.

Ref. to Judiciary I	GS 120
---------------------	--------