

April 21, 2005

H 1425. REDISTRICTING REFORM/CONSTITUTIONAL. *TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO REFORM LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING.* Amends Sections 3 and 5, Article II, of NC Constitution to provide that an agency in the executive branch is to supervise the revision of Senate and House of Representative districts after each decennial census, with each Senator and House member to represent a number of inhabitants that does not deviate more than five percent from the ideal. Amends Sections 6 and 7, Article II, to provide that if the Senate and House of Representative district boundaries are revised less than 15 months before the general election, candidates are eligible if they established residence within the district no later than three months after the boundaries were last revised. Enacts new Section 25, Article II, to provide that an agency in the executive branch is to supervise the revision of districts for members of the House of Representatives of the US Congress after each decennial census, with each Representative to represent a number of inhabitants that does not deviate more than five percent from the ideal. Enacts new Section 26, Article II, to provide that executive agency designated by law is to adopt legislative and congressional districts. Provides that any citizen may submit redistricting plan to agency upon payment of a \$100 fee per plan. Mandatory standards for districts include that the districts be contiguous, have single members, and comply with federal law. Districts meeting mandatory standards are then scored for quality according to defined standards, including compactness and one-person one-vote and minimizing split counties, municipalities, and precincts. Sets 90-day period for submission and evaluation of plans. Waives fee for the highest scoring plan for the day. Provides for exhaustion of legal appeals if districts invalidated by court prior to revisions of districts. Amendments subject to approval by the voters at the November 2006 general election. Amendments become effective when voter approval is certified. If amendments are approved, designates the State Board of Elections as executive agency to supervise redistricting.

Intro. by Dollar.

Ref. to Rules

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