

March 9, 2005

**S 430. INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMM/CONST. TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.** Requires referendum in November 2006 on amendments to Article II of the NC Constitution, creating a nine-member Independent Redistricting Comm'n, two members appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, three by the Governor, two by the Speaker of the House, and two by the President Pro Tem. An appointing officer's appointments may not all be affiliated with the same political party. Comm'n members are precluded from holding or being a candidate for elective State office for four years before service on the Comm'n, and from holding elective State office four years after service.

Requires that Comm'n establish General Assembly and US House of Representatives districts. Comm'n redistricting plans would have the force of law.

In establishing General Assembly districts, the Comm'n must avoid creating multiple-member districts unless necessary to advance a compelling interest and must avoid creating districts that would divide counties. General Assembly districts must also be geographically compact.

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. Requires that Comm'n consider all relevant requirements of the US Constitution, federal law, and the NC Constitution. Authorizes General Assembly to assign to the Comm'n the duty of creating redistricting plans of any county, municipality, or other governmental subdivision. Makes conforming changes.

**Intro. by Kinnaird.**

Ref. to Ways & Means

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