

March 24, 2005

**S 997. REDISTRICTING REFORM. TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO REFORM**

**LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING.** Proposes amendments to Article II of the NC Constitution regarding the creation of legislative and congressional districts. For each, the amendments require a process to define districts following a decennial census. Prohibits the altering of districts at any other time. Creates process for districts to be revised based upon plans submitted by citizens of the State to the Secretary of State. The Secretary evaluates and scores each plan based upon criteria set out in amendments. Plan receiving highest quality score is adopted to define the legislative and congressional districts until the next census. Plans are to be evaluated based upon their ability to achieve three goals: 1) compact districts, 2) one person, one vote in each district, and 3) minimizing the number of split counties, municipalities, and precincts. Specifies that each district shall consist of contiguous territory and that only one State Senator, State Representative, or US Representative will represent each district. Amendments to be submitted to voters in November 2008 general election.

**Intro. by Brock.**

Ref. to Ways & Means

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