March 20, 2007
S 1122. HORTON INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMM.. Filed 3/20/07. *TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA TO ESTABLISH THE HAMILTON C. HORTON JR. INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.*

Adds new section to Article II of the North Carolina Constitution to: (1) establish the Hamilton C. Horton Jr. Independent Redistricting Commission; (2) establish the general composition and eligibility for membership on the Commission, selection process, and terms of office; (3) authorize the Commission to adopt plans for revising the senate and representative districts and plans for election of members of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States that have the force and effect of acts of the General Assembly and prohibits the General Assembly from doing the same; (4) require the Commission to adopt district plans by October 1 of the year following each federal decennial census; (5) specify certain criteria and laws that the Commission may and may not consider in adopting any district plans; (6) provide for a minimum 45-day public comment period before final adoption of any plan proposed by the Commission; and (7) authorize the General Assembly to assign to the Commission the duty to adopt districting and redistricting plans for any local government, special district, and other governmental subdivision if requested by the governing board of the unit or a court of competent jurisdiction. Amends Section 3 and Section 5 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution to authorize the Commission to revise the senate and house districts, and apportionment of Senators and Representatives among those districts, after each decennial census, according to specified goals. Makes conforming changes to Subsection (5) of Section 22 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution. Enacts new GS 163-207.1 to establish a selection and appointment process for the Commission. Requires the proposed constitutional amendments to be submitted to the voters at the general election in November 2008.

Intro. by Brunstetter.   GS 163, CONST