

FAILED



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 958

AMENDMENT NO. A4
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H958-ASTe-66 [v.1]

Page 1 of 3

Amends Title [NO]
Seventh Edition

Date _____, 2026

Senator Batch

moves to amend the bill on page 5, lines 46-47, by inserting the following between those lines:

"SECTION 1.11.(a) Chapter 120 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 1B.

"Redistricting.

"§ 120-4.50. Definitions.

As used in this Article, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) Census Bureau. – The United States Bureau of the Census.
- (2) Communities of interest. – Contiguous and cohesive populations of persons that share common social, economic, or policy interests. Communities of interest shall not include common relationships with political parties or political candidates. Communities of interest include, but are not limited to, populations that share any of the following characteristics:
 - a. A racial, cultural, geographic, or ethnic identity.
 - b. A common history of marginalization or discrimination.
 - c. Natural resources.
 - d. Excessive damage from past or present natural disasters or pollution.
 - e. An organized decision-making body.
- (3) Congressional districts or plans. – Districts or plans for the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.
- (4) Federal census. – The decennial census required by federal law to be conducted by the Census Bureau in every year ending in zero.
- (5) Ideal population. – The number determined by dividing the number of members in a plan into the population of the State as reported in the federal census.
- (6) Identified representative. – A member of the Senate or House of Representatives of the General Assembly or a member of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.
- (7) Legislative districts or plans. – Districts or plans for the Senate and House of Representatives of the General Assembly.



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1 (8) Metropolitan or micropolitan statistical areas. – Areas of the State defined as
2 metropolitan or micropolitan statistical areas by the Office of Management
3 and Budget of the United States.

4 (9) Plan. – A plan for legislative or congressional reapportionment drawn in
5 accordance with the North Carolina Constitution and this Article.

6 (10) Public office. – Elective State, local, or federal office.

7 **"§ 120-4.70. Redistricting criteria.**

8 All plans shall meet the following goals, in order of priority:

9 (1) Each identified representative shall represent, as nearly as may be, an equal
10 number of inhabitants.

11 (2) Compliance with the North Carolina Constitution, State law, the Constitution
12 of the United States, including the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth
13 Amendment, and federal law, to ensure that everyone, including members of
14 minority groups, have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their
15 choice. A plan shall not diminish or dilute the ability of a member of a
16 minority from electing a candidate of his or her choice, whether alone or in
17 coalition with others.

18 (3) In accordance with subdivisions (1) and (2) of this section, the population for
19 a legislative district shall be within five percent (5%) of the ideal population
20 for that district. Congressional districts shall each have a population that is as
21 nearly equal as practicable to the ideal population but in all cases within
22 one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the ideal population for that district.

23 (4) All districts shall be contiguous. Areas that meet only at the points of
24 adjoining corners are not contiguous.

25 (5) Minimizing the number of split communities of interest with the following
26 communities of interest prioritized above all others and in the following order:

27 a. Municipalities and census designated places.

28 b. Precincts.

29 c. Counties.

30 (6) No electoral results or political data shall be considered in the preparation of
31 a plan.

32 (7) Districts shall not favor or disfavor an incumbent, and member residency shall
33 not be considered in the preparation of a plan.

34 (8) To the extent practicable, all districts shall be compact. Districts should not
35 bypass nearby communities for more distant communities.

36 **"§ 120-4.80. Public input.**

37 (a) Public Hearings. – For each redistricting cycle, at least one public hearing shall occur
38 in each of the metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas of the State. Of the total public
39 hearings, at least 10 hearings shall occur before a plan is released to the public.

40 (b) Public Input. – To the extent possible, members of the public shall be afforded an
41 opportunity to provide substantive comments on any plan released to the public. To achieve that
42 goal, members of the public shall be afforded with all of the following:

43 (1) Sufficient time to review any plan released to the public.

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- 1 (2) The opportunity to communicate comments, questions, and recommendations
2 on any plan released to the public, at a minimum, in person, online, and
3 through the mail.
- 4 (3) Access to the same demographic data that is used in a machine-readable form.
- 5 (4) Access to mapping software and census data in a minimum of 30 public library
6 facilities in the State within 20 days of receipt of that data from the United
7 States Bureau of the Census.
- 8 (5) A public, written response to every substantive comment or recommendation
9 regarding a specific component of a plan released to the public. The response
10 shall address the viability of any recommendation and indicate whether it was
11 or will be incorporated in any other plan. A single response may be provided
12 for one or more comments or recommendations on the same topic.
- 13 (6) A website with all of the following information:
- 14 a. Background information on the redistricting process available in at
15 least English and Spanish on the purpose of redistricting and its impact
16 on all communities.
- 17 b. Livestreams and recordings of all public meetings in audio, video, or
18 both formats and minutes from those meetings.
- 19 c. Meeting announcements.
- 20 d. A searchable database of feedback, including public comments, and
21 plans discussed. This information shall be made available as soon as
22 practicable after it is generated.
- 23 e. Plans discussed and the data used to create those plans.

24 **"§ 120-4.85. Local redistricting.**

25 The General Assembly may by law assign to the Commission the duty to prepare district
26 plans for any county, city, town, special district, and other governmental subdivision, if the
27 governing board of the unit or a court of appropriate jurisdiction so requests.";
28

29 and on page 16, lines 44-45, by rewriting those lines to read:

30

31 "SECTION 5.2. Nothing in this act shall become effective unless Senate Bill 638,
32 2025 Regular Session, becomes law. If Senate Bill 638, 2025 Regular Session becomes law,
33 except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law."

**The official copy of this document, with signatures
and vote information, is available in the
Senate Principal Clerk's Office**

ADOPTED _____ FAILED _____ TABLED _____