

2012 -- H 7841

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- REDISTRICTING FAIRNESS

Introduced By: Representative Spencer E. Dickinson

Date Introduced: February 28, 2012

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 22 of the General Laws entitled "GENERAL ASSEMBLY" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 20

4 REDISTRICTING FAIRNESS

5 **22-20-1. Redistricting fairness required.** -- (a) Whenever the general assembly districts
6 are redistricted for whatever reason, the following provisions shall apply:

7 (1) Redistricting shall be executed by a commission independent of elected officials. The
8 commission shall be appointed from the ranks of retired members of the judiciary as follows: The
9 governor shall appoint three (3) members; each general officer shall appoint two (2) members for
10 a total of eleven (11) members.

11 (2) The commission shall select and appoint a technical consultant to be paid by the
12 administration according to a budget appropriation approved by the general assembly.

13 (3) The commission is hereby empowered and shall establish, publish, and carry out a
14 procedure which shall accomplish redistricting in accordance with the following standards:

15 (i) Any federal requirements;

16 (ii) Diversity;

17 (iii) Compactness;

18 (iv) In the interest of maintaining continuity between voters and their representatives, the
19 redistricting plan shall provide for moving no more people than is necessary to accomplish

1 population balance consistent with other requirements:

2 (v) Residences of existing seated elected representatives and senators, regardless of party
3 affiliation, shall remain in the geographic areas of their current districts to the maximum extent
4 possible consistent with other requirements; and

5 (vi) In no case shall redistricting be intended to change a seated official, and in no case
6 shall redistricting be used to influence the outcome of an election or otherwise bring about a
7 specific or intended electoral outcome.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- REDISTRICTING FAIRNESS

1 This act would provide for fairness in redistricting by establishing a commission
2 independent of elected officials and criteria to follow taking into consideration federal law,
3 diversity and compactness.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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