
IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2020

Mr. WALKER (for himself, Mr. AARON, Mr. FANDEROV, Mr. JAY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KOAY, Mr. LaDARION, Mr. MITCHELL, Mrs. REED, Mr. ROMERIO, Mr. SMITH, and Mrs. SUSAN) introduced the following bill;

A BILL

To reform the redistricting processes used by the States to re-enfranchise historically suppressed voters.

Be it enacted by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This bill may be cited as the “Gerrymandering Prevention and Avoidance Act.”

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

- (a) “Redistricting” refers to the process of redrawing congressional districts in any particular State.

- (b) “Commission” refers to a committee of citizens selected for a specific purpose.
- (c) “Political party” refers to a national political party, a State political party, or any affiliated organization.
- (d) “National” refers to a national, defined in Section 1101(a)(21) of Title 8, U.S. Code.
- (e) “National of the United States” refers to a national of the United States, defined in Section 1101(a)(22) of Title 8, U.S. Code.

SECTION 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT STATE COMMISSIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF REDISTRICTING.

- (a) In General.—There shall be established in each of the several States a commission responsible for the redistricting of the congressional districts of the States.

SECTION 4. COMPOSITION OF REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS.

- (a) Composition.—The makeup of such commission outlined in paragraph (a) of section (3) of this Act shall adhere to the following guidelines:
 - (1) Each commission will have eight members, none of whom may be under the age of twenty-five years.
 - (2) No one political party may have any more than four members on this commission, and any political parties represented on the commission must have equal membership with one another.
 - (3) No member of such commission shall have ever been a legislator at any level or employed by the federal government or State government in any capacity.
 - (4) The members of the commission shall be appointed by the governor of the State thereof.
 - (5) Each member of a commission shall be required to be both a national of the United States and a national of the State which they are on the commission for.

SECTION 5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS.

- (a) In General.—The responsibilities of such commission outlined in paragraph (a) of section (3) of this Act shall be as follows:
 - (1) The several commissions shall be responsible for the drawing of the congressional districts of their States when necessary.

(2) The commissions shall not draw such districts in a manner which does any of the following:

- (A) Impedes the ability of groups whose capacity to vote without difficulty has historically been impinged upon, including racial and ethnic minorities and low-income residents, to elect representatives of their choice;
- (B) Establishes a district map which is clearly observable of having the intent to disenfranchise voters as outlined in paragraph (a)(2)(A) of this section.

SECTION 6. PROCESS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DISTRICT MAPS.

(a) In General.—Such district maps as drawn by commissions as outlined in section (5) of this Act shall be confirmed and implemented as follows:

- (1) The commission shall present their proposed map to the Legislature of their State.
- (2) All houses of a Legislature shall first take a vote on whether such map, as presented, violates paragraph (a)(2) of section (5) of this Act.
- (3) If the map is found to be in accordance with the provisions of such statutes, it shall be implemented as the new district map of that State.
- (4) If such map is found by one or both houses of a State's legislature to be in violation of such statutes, the commission responsible for the creation of the map shall repeat the map-drawing process and submit the map to the Legislature again under the provisions of this section.

SECTION 7. ENACTMENT.

The provisions of this Act shall go into effect immediately upon its signature by the President.