HOUSE BILL No. 1386

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected:  IC 2-1.5; IC 2-2.1-1-2.7; IC 3-3; IC 3-8.

Synopsis: Redistricting. Establishes a redistricting commission (commission) to create, hold hearings on, take public comment about, and recommend plans to redraw general assembly districts and congressional districts. Requires the legislative services agency (agency) to provide staff and administrative services to the commission. Establishes standards to govern the commission and the agency in the creation of redistricting plans. Provides that the general assembly shall meet and enact redistricting plans before October 1 of a redistricting year. Authorizes the general assembly to convene in a session to act on redistricting bills at times other than the times the general assembly is currently authorized to meet. Repeals the current law establishing a redistricting commission for congressional redistricting.

Effective: July 1, 2019.

Boy

January 14, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Elections and Apportionment.
INTRODUCED

First Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2019)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in this style type, and deletions will appear in this style type.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in this style type. Also, the word NEW will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in this style type or this style type reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2018 Regular and Special Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1386

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning elections.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 2-1.5 is added to the Indiana Code as a new article to read as follows [effective July 1, 2019]:

ARTICLE 1.5. REDISTRICTING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Chapter 1. Definitions

Sec. 1. The definitions in this chapter apply throughout this article.

Sec. 2. "Agency" refers to the legislative services agency established under IC 2-5-1.1-7.

Sec. 3. "Appointing authority" refers to any of the following:

(1) The speaker of the house of representatives.
(2) The minority leader of the house of representatives.
(3) The president pro tempore of the senate.
(4) The minority leader of the senate.

Sec. 4. "Bureau" refers to the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.
Sec. 5. "Census data" means the population data that the bureau is required to provide to the state under 13 U.S.C. 141.

Sec. 6. "Census year" refers to the year in which a federal decennial census is conducted.

Sec. 7. "Commission" refers to the redistricting commission established by IC 2-1.5-2-1.

Sec. 8. "Federal decennial census" refers to a federal decennial census conducted under 13 U.S.C. 141.

Sec. 9. "House of representatives" refers to the house of representatives of the general assembly.

Sec. 10. "Ideal district population" for a plan refers to the number equal to the quotient of the following, rounded to the nearest whole number:

(1) The numerator is the population of Indiana as reported by the most recent federal decennial census.

(2) The denominator is the number of districts required by this article for the plan.

Sec. 11. (a) "Plan" refers to any of the following:

(1) A plan for districts for the house of representatives.

(2) A plan for districts for the senate.

(3) A plan for congressional districts.

(b) A plan includes maps and written descriptions of the maps that define all the districts that a plan is required to have under this article.

Sec. 12. "Political subdivision" means a city, county, town, or township.

Sec. 13. "Redistricting year" refers to the year immediately following a census year.

Sec. 14. "Senate" refers to the senate of the general assembly.

Chapter 2. Redistricting Commission

Sec. 1. As provided in this chapter, a redistricting commission consisting of nine (9) members is established.

Sec. 2. (a) Not later than January 15 of a redistricting year, each of the appointing authorities shall appoint two (2) commission members. Each appointing authority shall certify to the executive director of the agency the appointment of the individuals appointed to the commission.

(b) Not later than February 15 of a redistricting year, the members appointed under subsection (a) shall meet and appoint the commission's chair. The speaker of the house of representatives shall designate a member to call and preside during the meeting. The commission shall certify to the executive director of the agency
the appointment of the commission's chair.

(c) In making appointments under this section, and in
appointing the commission's chair, the appointing authorities and
the members of the commission shall seek to optimize the
geographic, minority, and gender diversity of the commission.

Sec. 3. To serve on the commission, an individual must be a
resident of Indiana.

Sec. 4. (a) The definitions in IC 3-5-2 apply throughout this
section.

(b) An individual may not serve on the commission if the
individual has been any of the following at any time less than six (6)
years before the individual's appointment to the commission:

(1) A member of the general assembly or the Congress of the
United States.

(2) A candidate for election to the general assembly or the
Congress of the United States.

(3) The holder of a state office (as defined in IC 3-5-2-48).

(4) An appointed public official.

(5) An employee of any of the following:
   (A) The general assembly.
   (B) A member of the Congress of the United States from
       Indiana.
   (C) A United States Senator representing Indiana.

(6) The chairman or treasurer of a candidate's committee of
a candidate for election to the general assembly or the
Congress of the United States as required by IC 3-9-1 or
federal law.

(7) A precinct committeeman or a precinct vice
committeeman.

(8) A member of a candidate's committee.

(9) A member of a central committee.

(10) A member of a national committee.

(11) An employee or an agent of a political party or of an
entity described in any of subdivisions (8) through (10).

(12) An individual who is either of the following:
   (A) A paid consultant of an entity described in any of
       subdivisions (8) through (11).
   (B) An employee of a paid consultant of an entity described
       in any of subdivisions (8) through (11).

(13) An individual registered as a lobbyist under IC 2-7.

Sec. 5. (a) Before undertaking duties as a commission member,
an individual appointed under section 2 or 8 of this chapter must
do each of the following:
   (1) Take an oath of office.
   (2) Make an affirmation that the individual will:
       (A) apply the provisions of this article in an honest and
           independent manner; and
       (B) uphold public confidence in the integrity of the
           redistricting process.
   (3) Make a written pledge that the individual will not be a
       candidate for:
       (A) election to the general assembly; or
       (B) selection to fill a vacancy in the general assembly;
           at any time before the second election for members of the
           general assembly after the individual's appointment to the
           commission.
   (4) Make a written pledge that the individual will not do any
       of the following until plans are adopted as provided in this
       article:
       (A) Make a contribution (as defined in IC 3-5-2-15).
       (B) Attend any function relating to the election of a
           candidate.
       (C) Serve in any capacity described in section 4 of this
           chapter.
   (b) A member's oath, affirmation, and pledge shall be filed with
       the agency.
Sec. 6. An individual serves as a commission member until the
earlier of the following:
   (1) The individual resigns the individual's membership on the
       commission.
   (2) The individual is removed as a member of the commission
       under section 7 of this chapter.
   (3) The appointment of a new commission under this chapter
       following a federal decennial census.
Sec. 7. (a) A commission member may be removed from office
for any of the following:
   (1) Substantial neglect of duty.
   (2) Gross misconduct in office.
   (3) Inability to discharge the duties of a member of the
       commission.
   (4) Becoming a candidate in violation of section 5(a)(3) of this
       chapter.
   (5) Taking an action in violation of section 5(a)(4) of this
       chapter.
(6) Ceasing to be a resident of Indiana as required by section 3 of this chapter.

(7) Being convicted of an action that would result in the removal of a public officer under IC 5-8-1-38 or IC 5-8-3-1.

(b) Whenever a person files a verified complaint in writing to remove a commission member under subsection (a), the supreme court shall, using any procedures the supreme court considers appropriate:

(1) hear the complaint not later than seven (7) days after the complaint is filed; and

(2) make a decision concerning the commission member's removal as expeditiously as possible after the hearing.

Sec. 8. (a) If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the leader of the caucus whose leader appointed the member whose position is vacant shall appoint an individual to fill the vacancy:

(1) not later than fifteen (15) days after the vacancy occurs; and

(2) in the same manner described in section 2 of this chapter.

(b) If the position of commission chair becomes vacant, the commission shall appoint an individual to fill the vacancy:

(1) not later than fifteen (15) days after the vacancy occurs; and

(2) in the same manner described in section 2 of this chapter.

Sec. 9. The affirmative vote of seven (7) commission members is necessary for the commission to take official action.

Sec. 10. Each commission member is entitled to receive the same per diem, mileage, and travel allowances paid to members of the general assembly serving on interim study committees established by the legislative council.

Sec. 11. (a) The agency shall provide the commission with staff and administrative services.

(b) The expenses of the commission shall be paid out of amounts appropriated to the legislative council (created under IC 2-5-1.1-1) and the agency, including the costs of litigation (if any).

Sec. 12. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a commission member may not communicate with any individual about the commission's duties under this article other than during a public meeting of the commission.

(b) A commission member may communicate with the following about the commission's duties under this article at any time:

(1) Other commission members.

(2) Employees of the agency.
(3) Attorneys, consultants, and other individuals under contract with the agency to assist the commission in its duties under this article.

(c) A commission member who violates this section commits gross misconduct in office and is subject to removal from the commission under section 7 of this chapter.

Chapter 3. Redistricting Procedure

Sec. 1. (a) Before January 1 of a redistricting year, the agency shall acquire any hardware, software, and supplies necessary to assist the commission in the performance of the commission's duties under this article.

(b) At any time, the agency may acquire additional hardware, software, and supplies the executive director of the agency considers necessary to assist the commission in performance of the commission's duties under this article.

Sec. 2. (a) Not later than March 15 of a redistricting year, the commission's chair shall convene the commission to do the following:

(1) Organize the commission.

(2) Receive reports from the agency concerning the following:
   (A) Information relating to the receipt of census data from the bureau.
   (B) The readiness of the agency to assist the commission's work.
   (C) Any other matter on which a report is requested by the commission.

(3) Provide initial instructions to the agency regarding the commission's work.

(4) Schedule hearings required or permitted under section 5 of this chapter.

(5) Schedule other meetings the commission considers necessary.

(6) Schedule the receipt of maps from the public.

(b) IC 5-14-1.5 (the open door law) applies to the commission's meetings.

(c) Records of the commission shall be available for inspection and copying in accordance with IC 5-14-3.

Sec. 3. If the agency must make a decision on a question for which no clearly applicable provision of this article or instruction of the commission provides an answer, the executive director of the agency shall submit a written request to the commission for direction.

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Sec. 4. (a) The agency shall do the following:
   (1) Create maps of legislative district plans and congressional
district plans that conform to this article and the
commission's instructions.
   (2) Prepare written descriptions of the maps created under
subdivision (1).
   (3) Evaluate maps submitted by the public for conformance
with the standards set forth in IC 2-1.5-4.
   (b) The agency shall produce as many different plans as the
commission instructs:
      (1) not earlier than May 1 of a redistricting year; and
      (2) not later than May 15 of the redistricting year.
   (c) The agency shall publish the maps and descriptions:
      (1) prepared for the commission by the agency; and
      (2) submitted to the commission from the public;
as directed by the commission not later than May 15 of a
redistricting year.

Sec. 5. (a) As directed by the commission, the agency shall
receive for the commission written public comments regarding the
plans after publication of the plans.
   (b) The commission shall provide for at least one (1) public
hearing in each Indiana congressional district, and an additional
meeting in Marion County, as determined by the commission. At
least two (2) commission members shall be present at each public
hearing, and a commission member shall preside and conduct the
hearing. The hearings shall be held not later than June 30 of a
redistricting year, and shall be recorded and made available live
and archived for public viewing on the Internet.
   (c) The commission may hold hearings in addition to the
hearings required by subsection (b).
   (d) The commission shall do the following at any hearings held
under this section:
      (1) Explain the redistricting procedure.
      (2) Present the plans prepared for the commission by the
agency.
      (3) Have available the plans submitted by the public and the
agency's evaluation of those plans.
      (4) Hear public comments and suggestions.
   (e) The commission may take other actions the commission
considers appropriate to do the following:
      (1) Explain the redistricting procedure or the plans to the
public.
(2) Receive public comments and suggestions.

(f) The commission may modify, with or without additional public hearings under this section, the maps published under section 4 of this chapter to:

(1) incorporate any public comments and suggestions adopted by the commission; or

(2) comply with the federal Voting Rights Act in accordance with IC 2-1.5-4.

The commission shall adopt any modifications made under this subsection in a public meeting.

(g) The commission shall give public notice of a meeting held under this section not later than ten (10) days before the date of the meeting.

Sec. 6. (a) Not later than August 1 of a redistricting year, the commission shall meet to adopt a report to the general assembly. The report must include the following:

(1) A summary of the commission's and the agency's preparation for the commission's work.

(2) A description of the hearings held under section 5 of this chapter.

(3) A summary of the public comments and suggestions received in writing and at the hearings.

(4) The commission's recommendation to the general assembly for each of the following:

(A) A district plan for the house of representatives.

(B) A district plan for the senate.

(C) A congressional district plan.

(5) Maps for each plan, including both a statewide map and a map for each district.

(6) A bill that would enact each of the plans.

(b) The commission shall recommend to the general assembly the plan the commission considers the best in meeting the standards set forth in IC 2-1.5-4.

(c) The commission may include any other information in the report the commission considers useful to explain the commission's work or recommendations.

(d) The report required by this section must be submitted to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

Sec. 7. (a) If, for any reason, an appointing authority, the agency, the commission, or the general assembly is unable to complete a duty required under this article or IC 2-2.1-1-2.7 before the deadline specified by law, the appointing authority, agency,
commission, or general assembly, as applicable, shall expedite completion of the requirement as soon as practicable after the deadline.

(b) If a court invalidates a plan after October 1 of a redistricting year, the commission and the general assembly shall take all necessary action to expedite the adoption of a plan to replace the invalidated plan.

Chapter 4. Redistricting Standards
Sec. 1. Districts created for the house of representatives, the senate, and the United States House of Representatives must comply with the standards of this chapter.

Sec. 2. (a) A plan for house of representatives districts must provide for one hundred (100) districts.
(b) A plan for senate districts must provide for fifty (50) districts.
(c) A plan for congressional districts must provide for as many districts as are allocated to Indiana under 2 U.S.C. 2a.

Sec. 3. Districts must be established on the basis of population, conforming to one (1) person, one (1) vote standards established under federal law.

Sec. 4. The population of a district of the house of representatives or the senate may not deviate from the ideal district population by more than two percent (2%) of the ideal district population.

Sec. 5. Districts must comply with the federal Voting Rights Act and other relevant federal statutes.

Sec. 6. (a) Districts must be composed of contiguous territory.
(b) Areas that meet only at the point of adjoining corners are not considered contiguous.

Sec. 7. Districts must not breach precinct boundaries.

Sec. 8. To the extent possible consistent with sections 2 through 7 of this chapter, district boundaries of general assembly districts must coincide with the boundaries of Indiana political subdivisions as follows:
(1) The commission shall minimize the number of counties and cities divided among more than one (1) district.
(2) Except as provided in subdivision (3), if there is a choice between political subdivisions to be divided, a more populous political subdivision shall be divided before a less populous political subdivision is divided.
(3) Subdivision (2) does not apply to a legislative district boundary drawn along a county line that passes through a
municipality that lies in more than one (1) county.

Sec. 9. Districts must seek to preserve communities of interest to the extent possible consistent with sections 2 through 8 of this chapter.

Sec. 10. Districts must be as compact as possible to the extent possible consistent with sections 2 through 9 of this chapter.

Sec. 11. A plan for senate districts may not include a senate district in which is included the residence address of two (2) or more senators, one (1) or more of whom has a term of office that will expire at the second general election held after the redistricting year.

Sec. 12. (a) In evaluating plans for recommendation, the commission shall consider the effect that a plan has on language minority groups and racial minority groups as required by the federal Voting Rights Act.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) and section 11 of this chapter, the commission and the agency may not receive or consider:

(1) past election results; or

(2) the addresses of incumbent legislators or members of the Congress of the United States; in preparing proposed maps of legislative district plans and congressional district plans.

(c) After the maps have been published under IC 2-1.5-3-4, the agency shall review past election results and the addresses of incumbent senators to evaluate the proposed maps for compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act and section 11 of this chapter and, if necessary, shall recommend to the commission one (1) or more modifications to the maps to bring the maps into compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act and section 11 of this chapter. The modifications recommended under this subsection may include population deviations greater than those imposed under section 4 of this chapter. However, the population deviations may not exceed ten percent (10%).

SECTION 2. IC 2-2.1-1-2.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 2.7. (a) The definitions in IC 2-1.5-1 apply throughout this section.

(b) The general assembly shall convene on the third Tuesday of September during a redistricting year and enact bills to establish the following:

(1) House of representatives districts.
(2) Senate districts.

(3) Congressional districts.

(c) A bill to enact a redistricting plan recommended by the redistricting commission under IC 2-1.5-3 must be introduced in, considered by, and voted on by each house of the general assembly, without amendment, except amendments of a technical nature.

(d) If the general assembly does not enact the redistricting plan recommended by the redistricting commission under IC 2-1.5-3 not later than five (5) days after it first convenes under this section, the general assembly shall provide, not later than ten (10) days after the general assembly first convenes under this section, written comments to the redistricting commission concerning the reason or reasons why the recommended plan was not enacted.

(e) Not later than fifteen (15) days after receiving the general assembly's comments under subsection (d), the redistricting commission shall recommend to the general assembly a second redistricting plan. The second redistricting plan recommended by the redistricting commission must be introduced in, considered by, and voted on by each house of the general assembly, without amendment, except amendments of a technical nature.

(f) Unless the general assembly has enacted bills described in subsection (b) at:

(1) a session convened under another section of this chapter;

or

(2) a special session called by the governor;

the general assembly may not consider a matter that is not relevant to the legislation described in subsection (b) during a session convened under this section.

(g) The general assembly may not adjourn a session convened under this section sine die until all redistricting plans have been enacted.

SECTION 3. IC 3-3-2 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019].

(Redistricting Commission).

SECTION 4. IC 3-3-5-10, AS ADDED BY P.L.215-2011, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 10. Beginning November 6, 2012, the 2001 Congressional District Plan:

(1) adopted by the redistricting commission under IC 3-3-2

(before its repeal); and

(2) published in the governor's executive order 01-11 in the Indiana Register at 24 IR 3293-3298;

is void.
SECTION 5. IC 3-8-2-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.169-2015, SECTION 54, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 8. (a) A declaration of candidacy for the office of United States Senator or for the office of governor must be accompanied by a petition signed by at least four thousand five hundred (4,500) voters of the state, including at least five hundred (500) voters from each congressional district.

(b) Each petition must contain the following:

(1) The signature of each petitioner.
(2) The name of each petitioner legibly printed.
(3) The residence address of each petitioner as set forth on the petitioner's voter registration record.

(c) Except as provided in this subsection, the signature, printed name, and residence address of the petitioner must be made in writing by the petitioner. If a petitioner with a disability is unable to write this information on the petition, the petitioner may authorize an individual to do so on the petitioner's behalf. The individual acting under this subsection shall execute an affidavit of assistance for each such petitioner, in a form prescribed by the election division. The form must set forth the name and address of the individual providing assistance, and the date the individual provided the assistance. The form must be submitted with the petition.

(d) This subsection applies to a petition filed during the period:

(1) beginning on the date that a congressional district plan has been adopted under IC 3-3; IC 2-1.5; and

(2) ending on the date that the part of the act or order issued under IC 3-3-2 establishing the previous congressional district plan is repealed or superseded.

The petition must be signed by at least four thousand five hundred (4,500) voters of Indiana, including at least five hundred (500) voters from each congressional district created by the most recent congressional district plan adopted under IC 3-3; IC 2-1.5.

SECTION 6. IC 3-8-3-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.169-2015, SECTION 57, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 2. (a) A request filed under section 1 of this chapter must be accompanied by a petition signed by at least four thousand five hundred (4,500) voters of the state, including at least five hundred (500) voters from each congressional district.

(b) Each petition must contain the following:

(1) The signature of each petitioner.
(2) The name of each petitioner legibly printed.
(3) The residence address of each petitioner as set forth on the
petitioner's voter registration record.

(c) Except as provided in this subsection, the signature, printed name, and residence address of the petitioner must be made in writing by the petitioner. If a petitioner with a disability is unable to write this information on the petition, the petitioner may authorize an individual to do so on the petitioner's behalf. The individual acting under this subsection shall execute an affidavit of assistance for each such petitioner, in a form prescribed by the election division. The form must set forth the name and address of the individual providing assistance, and the date the individual provided the assistance. The form must be submitted with the petition.

(d) This subsection applies to a petition filed during the period:

(1) beginning on the date that a congressional district plan has been adopted under IC 3-3; IC 2-1.5; and

(2) ending on the date that the part of the act or order issued under IC 3-3-2 establishing the previous congressional district plan is repealed or superseded.

The petition must be signed by at least four thousand five hundred (4,500) voters of Indiana, including at least five hundred (500) voters from each congressional district created by the most recent congressional district plan adopted under IC 3-3-1 IC 2-1.5.