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SENATE BILL 15

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; CREATING A JOINT INTERIM LEGISLATIVE
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE CREATED--
TERMINATION.--There is created a joint interim legislative
committee, which shall be known as the "redistricting
committee". The committee may function from the date of its
appointment until January 14, 2022.

SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP--APPOINTMENT--VACANCIES.--The
redistricting committee shall be composed of sixteen members.
Eight members of the house of representatives shall be
appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and
eight members of the senate shall be appointed by the
committees' committee of the senate, or, if the senate

1 appointment is made in the interim, by the president pro
2 tempore of the senate after consultation and agreement of a
3 majority of the members of the committees' committee. Members
4 shall be appointed from each house so as to give the two major
5 political parties in each house the same proportional
6 representation on the committee as prevails in each house;
7 provided that in no event shall either of the parties have less
8 than one member from each house on the committee. Vacancies on
9 the committee shall be filled by appointment in the same manner
10 as the original appointments. One co-chair shall be selected
11 by the speaker of the house of representatives and one co-chair
12 by the committees' committee, or, if the senate appointment is
13 made in the interim, by the president pro tempore of the senate
14 after consultation and agreement of a majority of the members
15 of the committees' committee. No action shall be taken by the
16 committee if a majority of the total membership from either
17 house on the committee rejects such action.

18 SECTION 3. DUTIES.--

19 A. After appointment of its members, the
20 redistricting committee shall hold one organizational meeting
21 to develop a work plan and budget for its interim tasks. The
22 work plan and budget shall be submitted to the New Mexico
23 legislative council for approval. Upon approval of the work
24 plan and budget by the New Mexico legislative council, the
25 committee shall:

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1 (1) examine the statutes, constitutional
2 provisions, rules and court decisions governing redistricting
3 in New Mexico;

4 (2) adopt guidelines for redistricting so that
5 the procedures, criteria and standards for redistricting plans
6 meet statutory and constitutional requirements;

7 (3) conduct public hearings to provide a forum
8 for public involvement in the redistricting process; and

9 (4) recommend appropriate redistricting
10 legislation to the fifty-fifth legislature.

11 B. In developing redistricting plans for
12 congressional and state districts, the committee shall use data
13 from the 2020 decennial census.

14 **SECTION 4. SUBCOMMITTEES.**--Subcommittees of the
15 redistricting committee shall be created only by majority vote
16 of all members appointed to the committee and with the prior
17 approval of the New Mexico legislative council. A subcommittee
18 shall be composed of at least one member from the senate and
19 one member from the house of representatives, and at least one
20 member of the minority party shall be a member of the
21 subcommittee. All meetings and expenditures of a subcommittee
22 shall be approved by the full committee in advance of such
23 meeting or expenditure, and the approval shall be shown in the
24 minutes of the committee.

25 **SECTION 5. REPORT.**--The redistricting committee shall

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1 recommend proposed redistricting plans to a special session of
2 the fifty-fifth legislature called for the purpose of
3 redistricting congressional, legislative and public education
4 commission districts.

5 SECTION 6. STAFF.--The legislative council service shall
6 provide staff for the redistricting committee.

7 SECTION 7. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
8 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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