



HR0995

LRB100 21617 MST 38752 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly will establish new
3 State legislative districts and congressional districts
4 following the 2020 United States decennial census of Illinois;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a long history of
7 partisanship in the mapmaking process, including the 1964
8 "Bedsheet Ballot" that was caused by disagreements on the
9 redistricting process; and

10 WHEREAS, In the 100th General Assembly, seven different
11 redistricting constitutional amendment proposals have been
12 filed by Republicans and Democrats to create an independent
13 redistricting reform process; and

14 WHEREAS, Independent redistricting reform would produce
15 Illinois House and Senate districts drawn without regard to
16 incumbency or partisanship; and

17 WHEREAS, Independent redistricting reform would attract
18 more candidates for the General Assembly and more competition
19 for legislative seats, resulting in more choices for voters;
20 and

1 WHEREAS, Independent redistricting reform would protect
2 the voting rights of racial and ethnic minorities and prohibit
3 drawing maps that dilute or diminish the ability of racial or
4 language minority communities to elect the candidates of their
5 choice; and

6 WHEREAS, Independent redistricting reform would respect
7 communities with shared interests and avoid breaking through
8 political and geographic boundaries; and

9 WHEREAS, Independent redistricting reform would allow the
10 public to view and participate in redistricting; and

11 WHEREAS, Transparent and non-partisan legislative
12 districting is essential to build a more trustworthy,
13 accountable, and healthy democracy for our State and nation;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Independent redistricting reform is necessary to
16 eliminate the conflict of interest that allows General Assembly
17 members to pick their voters; and

18 WHEREAS, Illinoisans deserve legislative elections where
19 issues are debated, candidates listen to their constituents,
20 and voters have choices; and

1 WHEREAS, Several recent federal cases reviewing
2 redistricting plans enacted in Wisconsin, Maryland, and North
3 Carolina have focused on whether and when it is possible to
4 bring a claim that drawing districts to the advantage of one
5 political party is unconstitutional; and

6 WHEREAS, The Illinois Supreme Court has kept citizen-led
7 redistricting reform proposals off of the ballots by ruling
8 that it did not fit the narrow legal window for citizen
9 initiatives to change the 1970 Illinois Constitution on strict
10 party lines; and

11 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly needs to study these
12 recent developments and other recent information concerning
13 redistricting law, map drawing, and process in preparation for
14 the upcoming redistricting cycle; and

15 WHEREAS, Action is needed now, given the multi-year process
16 required to amend the Illinois Constitution in order to
17 institute a reformed independent redistricting process by the
18 time the next redistricting occurs; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
21 support independent redistricting reform and advocate for a
22 non-partisan map-making process by the upcoming redistricting

1 cycle; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 delivered to the legislative leaders of the General Assembly,
4 Governor Rauner, and the Illinois Supreme Court.