



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB2554

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Melinda Bush

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 120/5-15 new

Amends the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011. Provides that no later than January 31st of the year immediately following the federal decennial census, the General Assembly shall establish a Special Joint-House and Senate Redistricting Committee to develop and finalize a redistricting plan for Legislative Districts and Representative Districts. Provides that the Committee shall consist of 12 members appointed by the General Assembly. Provides the priorities and requirements for Legislative Districts and Representative Districts. Requires the Committee to hold public hearings and make data used to create the plan available for the public. Provides that before a redistricting plan may be adopted, the Committee shall adopt and publish a report explaining the plan's compliance with federal and State law. Effective immediately.

LRB102 10340 SMS 15667 b

1 AN ACT concerning elections.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011 is  
5 amended by adding Section 5-15 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 120/5-15 new)

7 Sec. 5-15. Redistricting transparency.

8 (a) A redistricting plan pursuant to Article IV, Section 3  
9 of the Illinois Constitution shall be drawn subject to  
10 subsection (b) to form a Special Joint-House and Senate  
11 Redistricting Committee; subject to subsection (c) to  
12 establish ranked criteria for the Committee to consider when  
13 drawing the map; subject to subsection (d) to require a public  
14 hearing before and after a map proposal is released; and  
15 subject to subsection (e) to create a website, accessible to  
16 the general public, to post all documents, data, testimony,  
17 and proposed maps and to livestream hearings; subject to  
18 subsection (f) to utilize data provided by the Secretary of  
19 State's office to count residents of correctional facilities  
20 at their last known address before incarceration for  
21 redistricting purposes.

22 (b) No later than January 31st of the year immediately  
23 following the federal decennial census, the General Assembly

1 shall establish a Special Joint-House and Senate Redistricting  
2 Committee. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and  
3 Minority Leader of the House of Representative shall each  
4 appoint 3 members of the House of Representatives to serve on  
5 the Committee. The President of the Senate and Minority Leader  
6 of the Senate shall each appoint 3 members of the Senate to  
7 serve on the Committee.

8 (c) Each Legislative District and Representative District  
9 shall, in the following order of priority:

10 (1) fully comply with the United States Constitution  
11 and federal laws, such as the federal Voting Rights Act;

12 (2) be substantially equal in population based on the  
13 total amount of inhabitants according to the last  
14 preceding federal decennial census;

15 (3) provide racial minorities and language minorities  
16 with the equal opportunity to participate in the political  
17 process and elect candidates of their choice;

18 (4) fully comply with this Act to provide racial  
19 minorities and language minorities who constitute less  
20 than a voting-age majority of a Legislative District or  
21 Representative District with an opportunity to  
22 substantially influence the outcome of an election through  
23 the creation of crossover districts, coalition districts,  
24 or influence districts as defined by this Act;

25 (5) be contiguous;

26 (6) be compact;

1           (7) respect, to the extent practical, geographic  
2           integrity of units of local government;

3           (8) respect, to the extent practical, communities  
4           sharing common social or economic interests; and

5           (9) not discriminate against or in favor of any  
6           political party or individual.

7           (d) The Committee shall hold at least 35 public hearings  
8           throughout the State before proposing a redistricting plan.

9           (e) The Committee must provide a meaningful opportunity  
10           for racial minorities and language minorities to participate  
11           in the public hearings, including, but not limited to, issuing  
12           notices in multiple languages and ensuring that translation  
13           services are available at all hearings at the Committee's  
14           expense or through partnership with outside organizations.  
15           These public hearings shall be open to all members of the  
16           public and public notice shall be made at least 7 days in  
17           advance to encourage attendance and participation across the  
18           State, including the use of technology that allows for  
19           real-time, virtual participation and feedback during the  
20           hearings. When releasing a proposed redistricting plan, the  
21           Committee must release population data, geographic data,  
22           election data, precinct boundaries, and any other data used to  
23           create the plan, within 72 hours. The Committee must provide  
24           terminals for members of the public to access the data and  
25           associated software. During the map drawing process, any  
26           member of the public may submit maps for consideration to the

1 Committee. The Committee must consider public input and  
2 respond to it. Those submissions are public records that are  
3 open to comment.

4 The Committee may not adopt a redistricting plan until the  
5 Committee adopts and publishes a report explaining the plan's  
6 compliance with the United States Constitution, the Illinois  
7 Constitution, and this Section. Before the adoption of a  
8 redistricting plan, the Committee shall release to the public  
9 the final plan and its associated compliance report. The  
10 Committee shall hold at least 5 public hearings after the  
11 release of the final plan and associated compliance report  
12 prior to a vote being taken. The meeting to vote on adoption of  
13 a redistricting plan shall occur no sooner than 15 days after  
14 the release of the final plan and its associated compliance  
15 report. All proposed and adopted maps and any data used to  
16 develop these maps are public records. The Committee shall  
17 maintain a website or other similar electronic platform to  
18 disseminate information about the Committee, including records  
19 of its meetings and hearings, proposed redistricting plans,  
20 assessments, and reports on plans, and allow the public to  
21 view its meetings and hearings in both live and archived form.  
22 The website or electronic platform must allow the public to  
23 submit redistricting plans and comments on redistricting plans  
24 to the Committee for its consideration.

25 (f) Nothing in this Section shall be construed, applied,  
26 or implemented in a way that imposes any requirement or

1 obligation that conflicts with the United States Constitution,  
2 any federal law regarding redistricting Legislative Districts  
3 or Representative Districts, including, but not limited to,  
4 the federal Voting Rights Act, or the Illinois Constitution.

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
6 becoming law.