

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1256

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Price

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Virginia Redistricting Advisory Commission; established.

5. Summary: The bill establishes the Virginia Redistricting Advisory Commission, an 11-person commission tasked with proposing districts for the United States House of Representatives and for the Senate and the House of Delegates of the General Assembly that adhere to certain constitutional and statutory criteria and are based on public input and that will be submitted for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly. Four of the commissioners are to be affiliated with the political party receiving the highest number of votes for Governor at the immediately preceding gubernatorial election, four are to be affiliated with the political party receiving the next highest number of votes for Governor at the immediately preceding gubernatorial election, and three are to be unaffiliated with either of those political parties. The Auditor of Public Accounts is required to adopt an application and process by which residents of the Commonwealth may apply to serve on the Commission. The Auditor also acts as a repository for applications submitted by interested persons and is tasked with screening out applicants who are ineligible or submit incomplete applications and sorting eligible applicants into applicant pools by political party affiliation. Political leadership and the Auditor of Public Accounts each select one commissioner from the narrowed-down applicant pool, and then those five commissioners select the remaining six commissioners from the same applicant pools.

The Commission selects an executive director and hires its own full-time staff. Responsibilities related to preparation for the decennial Census and the redistricting process that are currently given to the Joint Reapportionment Committee are shifted to the Commission. The Commission is also tasked with maintaining current election district and precinct boundaries as part of its computer-assisted mapping and redistricting systems, both currently the responsibility of the Division of Legislative Services.

The Commission is required to develop and hold hearings on preliminary maps before submitting any proposed map to the General Assembly; the bill contains deadlines for both. The General Assembly may reject initial plans developed by the Commission and provide information to the Commission regarding the reasons for rejecting such plans. The General Assembly is limited in its ability to amend plans until multiple plans have been submitted and rejected. The bill sets out criteria by which the districts are to be drawn, including equal population, contiguity, racial and ethnic fairness, and respect for existing communities of

interest. The bill prohibits districts from being drawn for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring any political party, incumbent legislator or member of Congress, or other individual or entity. Provisions to ensure public participation in the redistricting process are included.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: See item 8.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate.

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill presents costs related to the compensation and reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses for legislative members. The Commission is designated to cover these costs out of its appropriations at an estimated \$36,000 for 8 legislators with the anticipation of 10 meetings. If there is no appropriation, these costs usually fall to the Clerk offices of the House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia to cover their respective members.

The bill also presents staffing and administrative costs for the operation support of the Commission. These costs are indeterminate at this time as the bill directs the Commission to hire its own executive director and staff, including legal counsel and consultants.

The bill directs the Auditor of Public Accounts to develop an application and application process. The agency estimates related costs to be minimal, such that the costs can be absorbed within existing appropriations.

The bill's enactment clauses place several requirements on the Division of Legislative Services. The agency estimates related costs to be minimal, such that the costs can be absorbed within existing appropriations.

It should be noted that \$1,069,500 per year is provided in Item 479 of House Bill 30 to support the needs of a Virginia Redistricting Commission and associated costs.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Virginia Redistricting Advisory Commission; the Auditor of Public Accounts; the Division of Legislative Services.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.