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SENATE BILL 408

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez

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 13, 2012.

**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

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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) use the guidelines for redistricting  
5 adopted by the New Mexico legislative council so that the  
6 procedures, criteria and standards for redistricting plans meet  
7 statutory and constitutional requirements;

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

10 (4) recommend appropriate redistricting  
11 legislation to the fiftieth legislature.

12 B. In developing redistricting plans for  
13 congressional and state districts, the committee shall use data  
14 from the 2010 decennial census.

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

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SECTION 5. REPORT.--The redistricting committee shall recommend proposed redistricting plans to a special session of the fiftieth legislature called for the purpose of redistricting congressional, legislative, public regulation commission and public education commission districts.

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

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