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HOUSE BILL 332

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

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Helen Garcia

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 eighteen members.
Nine members of the house of representatives shall be appointed
by the speaker of the house of representatives and nine members
of the senate shall be appointed by the committees' committee
of the senate, or, if the senate appointment is made in the

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