

HOUSE BILL 67

G1
HB 537/18 – HRU

9lr0694

By: **Delegate Reznik**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2019

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Potomac Compact for Fair Representation**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Potomac Compact for Fair Representation; providing
4 that a compacting state is not required to comply with the Compact under certain
5 circumstances; establishing the Congressional Districting Commission; requiring
6 the Executive Director of the Department of Legislative Services to determine the
7 size and composition of the Commission and, on or before a certain date in certain
8 years, select the members of the Commission; requiring that the members of the
9 Commission include certain professionals; requiring the Executive Director, subject
10 to a certain limitation, to determine the education and experience that an individual
11 is required to have for a certain purpose; requiring that the members of the
12 Commission be full-time employees of the Department or, under certain
13 circumstances, certain contractual employees; providing for the terms of the
14 members of the Commission; prohibiting members of the Commission from being
15 certain officials or a candidate for elected office while serving on the Commission;
16 providing that the members of the Commission may be removed only by
17 impeachment under a certain provision of law for certain reasons; prohibiting the
18 Department from terminating the employment of certain members of the
19 Commission except under certain circumstances; requiring congressional districts to
20 conform to certain standards and that due regard be given to certain boundaries;
21 requiring the Commission to prepare a certain congressional districting plan
22 following a certain census and after public hearings; requiring the Commission to
23 present each plan to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
24 Delegates; requiring the President and the Speaker to introduce the plan as a joint
25 resolution by a certain day of a certain General Assembly session; authorizing the
26 Governor to call a special session for certain purposes; prohibiting the plan from
27 being amended; prohibiting a member of the General Assembly from introducing a
28 certain joint resolution or bill; providing that the plan becomes law on adoption by
29 the General Assembly by a certain vote; requiring that an alternate congressional
30 districting plan be prepared and submitted under certain circumstances; requiring

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 the Court of Appeals to prepare a congressional districting plan under certain
2 circumstances; providing that the Court of Appeals has original jurisdiction to review
3 certain districting of the State under certain circumstances; authorizing the Court
4 of Appeals to grant certain relief under certain circumstances; providing for the
5 application of certain provisions of law and of this Act; defining certain terms;
6 making this Act subject to a certain contingency; and generally relating to the
7 Potomac Compact for Fair Representation.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Election Law

10 Section 8–6A–01 through 8–6A–05 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 6A. The
11 Potomac Compact for Fair Representation”

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Election Law**

17 **SUBTITLE 6A. THE POTOMAC COMPACT FOR FAIR REPRESENTATION.**

18 **8–6A–01.**

19 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
20 INDICATED.

21 (B) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING
22 COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE COMPACTING STATES UNDER §
23 8–6A–03 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

24 (C) “COMPACT” MEANS THE POTOMAC COMPACT FOR FAIR
25 REPRESENTATION.

26 (D) “COMPACTING STATE” MEANS THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA AND
27 THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

28 (E) “DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES” MEANS THE NONPARTISAN
29 STATE AGENCY IN MARYLAND.

30 (F) “NONPARTISAN STATE AGENCY” MEANS A STATE AGENCY DESIGNATED
31 BY A COMPACTING STATE THAT PROVIDES NONPARTISAN RESEARCH OR ANALYSIS
32 TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE OF THE DESIGNATING COMPACTING STATE.

33 (G) “PLAN” MEANS THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING PLAN PREPARED

1 FOR A COMPACTING STATE BY THE COMMISSION UNDER § 8-6A-05(A) OF THIS
2 SUBTITLE.

3 8-6A-02.

4 (A) THERE IS A POTOMAC COMPACT FOR FAIR REPRESENTATION.

5 (B) THIS SUBTITLE APPLIES ONLY IF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE
6 SERVICES DETERMINES AFTER CONSULTATION WITH AND ON THE ADVICE OF THE
7 ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT VIRGINIA HAS ADOPTED A CONGRESSIONAL
8 DISTRICTING PROCESS THAT IS SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE PROCESS IN THIS
9 SUBTITLE.

10 (C) A PROCESS SHALL BE CONSIDERED SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR FOR THE
11 PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION ONLY IF:

12 (1) A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING PLAN IS INITIALLY DEVELOPED
13 AND PROPOSED BY A COMMISSION COMPOSED OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE:

14 (I) EMPLOYEES OF OR CONTRACTED BY A NONPARTISAN STATE
15 AGENCY THAT PROVIDES NONPARTISAN RESEARCH OR ANALYSIS; AND

16 (II) NOT SELECTED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE,
17 MEMBERS OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE, OR AN INDIVIDUAL SELECTED BY THE
18 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OR THE STATE LEGISLATURE;

19 (2) THE STATE LEGISLATURE IS ALLOWED TO VOTE ON THE
20 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING PLAN PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION BUT IS
21 PROHIBITED FROM ALTERING THE PLAN; AND

22 (3) A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING PLAN PREPARED BY THE
23 COMPACTING STATE'S HIGHEST COURT BECOMES LAW IF THE STATE LEGISLATURE
24 FAILS TO ADOPT THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING PLAN PROPOSED BY THE
25 COMMISSION.

26 (D) A COMPACTING STATE IS NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THIS
27 COMPACT IF:

28 (1) A COMMISSION FAILS TO ADOPT A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING
29 PLAN FOR A COMPACTING STATE; OR

30 (2) A COMPACTING STATE'S ATTORNEY GENERAL DETERMINES THAT
31 THE OTHER COMPACTING STATE HAS REPEALED, REPLACED, OR FAILED TO

1 IMPLEMENT ANY ASPECT OF THIS COMPACT, INCLUDING FAILING TO IMPLEMENT
2 THE DISTRICT MAP ADOPTED BY A COMMISSION.

3 **8-6A-03.**

4 (A) THERE IS A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING COMMISSION.

5 (B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTIONS (C) AND (D) OF THIS SECTION, THE
6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL:

7 (1) DETERMINE THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION;
8 AND

9 (2) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1 OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE DECENNIAL
10 CENSUS, SELECT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

11 (C) (1) THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE:

12 (I) A DEMOGRAPHER;

13 (II) A CARTOGRAPHER;

14 (III) AN APPLIED MATHEMATICIAN;

15 (IV) A COMPUTER SCIENTIST; AND

16 (V) A LAWYER OR LEGAL EXPERT WHO SPECIALIZES IN
17 ELECTION AND REDISTRICTING LAW.

18 (2) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE
19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL
20 DETERMINE THE EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL IS REQUIRED
21 TO HAVE IN ORDER TO BE SELECTED AS ONE OF THE MEMBERS LISTED IN
22 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

23 (3) IN DETERMINING THE EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED,
24 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY NOT DEVIATE FROM WHAT IS NORMALLY
25 CONSIDERED TO BE THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO BE EMPLOYED AS
26 THE PROFESSIONAL LISTED.

27 (D) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE:

28 (1) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE

1 SERVICES; OR

2 (2) IF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DETERMINES THAT THE NEEDS OF
3 THE COMMISSION CANNOT BE MET WITH THE AVAILABLE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES
4 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES, EMPLOYEES HIRED ON A
5 CONTRACTUAL BASIS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SERVING ON THE COMMISSION.

6 (E) THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION BEGINS WHEN THE
7 MEMBER IS SELECTED AND ENDS WHEN:

8 (1) A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING PLAN IS ADOPTED BY THE
9 GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER § 8-6A-05 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

10 (2) THE COURT OF APPEALS IS REQUIRED TO PREPARE THE
11 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING PLAN UNDER § 8-6A-05(F) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

12 (F) WHILE SERVING ON THE COMMISSION, A MEMBER MAY NOT BE:

13 (1) AN ELECTED OFFICIAL;

14 (2) AN OFFICIAL WHOSE APPOINTMENT IS SUBJECT TO SENATE
15 CONFIRMATION; OR

16 (3) A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTED OFFICE.

17 (G) (1) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY BE REMOVED DURING THE
18 MEMBER'S TERM ONLY BY IMPEACHMENT UNDER ARTICLE III, § 26 OF THE
19 MARYLAND CONSTITUTION FOR MALFEASANCE, MISFEASANCE, OR NONFEASANCE.

20 (2) IF A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
21 LEGISLATIVE SERVICES IS REMOVED FROM THE COMMISSION BY IMPEACHMENT
22 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT
23 TERMINATE THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE EMPLOYEE UNLESS THE MALFEASANCE,
24 MISFEASANCE, OR NONFEASANCE WOULD HAVE BEEN GROUNDS FOR TERMINATION
25 IF COMMITTED BY THE EMPLOYEE IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYEE'S OTHER
26 DUTIES.

27 8-6A-04.

28 (A) EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SHALL CONSIST OF ADJOINING
29 TERRITORY, BE COMPACT IN FORM, AND BE OF SUBSTANTIALLY EQUAL
30 POPULATION.

1 (B) DUE REGARD SHALL BE GIVEN TO NATURAL BOUNDARIES AND THE
2 BOUNDARIES OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS WHEN DRAWING CONGRESSIONAL
3 DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

4 8-6A-05.

5 (A) FOLLOWING EACH DECENNIAL CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES AND
6 AFTER PUBLIC HEARINGS, THE COMMISSION SHALL PREPARE A PLAN
7 ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS THAT
8 COMPLIES WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL LAW, § 8-6A-04 OF THIS SUBTITLE, AND ANY
9 OTHER APPLICABLE STATE LAW.

10 (B) THE COMMISSION SHALL PRESENT THE PLAN TO THE PRESIDENT OF
11 THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, WHO SHALL
12 INTRODUCE THE PLAN AS A JOINT RESOLUTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOT
13 LATER THAN THE FIRST DAY OF ITS REGULAR SESSION IN THE SECOND YEAR
14 FOLLOWING THE DECENNIAL CENSUS.

15 (C) THE GOVERNOR MAY CALL A SPECIAL SESSION FOR THE PRESENTATION
16 OF THE PLAN BEFORE THE REGULAR SESSION.

17 (D) (1) THE PLAN MAY NOT BE AMENDED.

18 (2) A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY NOT INTRODUCE A
19 JOINT RESOLUTION OR A BILL CONTAINING A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING PLAN
20 THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE PLAN PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION.

21 (E) (1) THE PLAN SHALL BECOME LAW ON ADOPTION BY THE GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF BOTH HOUSES.

23 (2) IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FAILS TO ADOPT THE PLAN BY THE
24 17TH DAY AFTER THE OPENING OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE IN
25 THE SECOND YEAR FOLLOWING THE DECENNIAL CENSUS, THE COMMISSION SHALL
26 PREPARE AN ALTERNATE PLAN AND SUBMIT IT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
27 AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, WHO SHALL INTRODUCE THE
28 PLAN AS A JOINT RESOLUTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

29 (F) IF THE ALTERNATE PLAN INTRODUCED UNDER SUBSECTION (E)(2) OF
30 THIS SECTION FAILS TO RECEIVE A MAJORITY VOTE OF BOTH HOUSES BY THE 52ND
31 DAY AFTER THE OPENING OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
32 IN THE SECOND YEAR FOLLOWING THE DECENNIAL CENSUS, THE COURT OF
33 APPEALS SHALL PREPARE THE PLAN ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE
34 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS.

1 **(G) IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS A PLAN, ON PETITION OF ANY**
2 **REGISTERED VOTER, THE COURT OF APPEALS:**

3 **(1) SHALL HAVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION TO REVIEW THE**
4 **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING PLAN; AND**

5 **(2) MAY GRANT APPROPRIATE RELIEF IF IT FINDS THAT THE**
6 **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING PLAN IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH APPLICABLE**
7 **FEDERAL AND STATE LAW.**

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

9 (a) This Act may not take effect until a similar Act is enacted by the
10 Commonwealth of Virginia not later than January 1, 2020.

11 (b) The Commonwealth of Virginia is requested to concur in this Act by enactment
12 of a similar Act before January 1, 2020.

13 (c) The Department of Legislative Services shall notify the appropriate officials
14 of the Commonwealth of Virginia of the enactment of this Act.

15 (d) On the concurrence in this Act by the Commonwealth of Virginia, the
16 Governor of the State of Maryland shall issue a proclamation declaring this Act valid and
17 effective and shall forward a copy of the proclamation to the Executive Director of the
18 Department of Legislative Services.

19 (e) If the Commonwealth of Virginia does not concur in this Act as specified in
20 this section, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
21 null and void.

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of this
23 Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2019.