

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

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By: **Delegates Parrott, Arikan, Cox, and McComas**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Redistricting – Congressional Districts – Standards**

3 FOR the purpose of stating that the redistricting standards for State legislative districts in
4 Article III, Section 4 of the Maryland Constitution should be applied also to
5 congressional districts; and generally relating to redistricting standards for
6 congressional districts.

7 WHEREAS, Redistricting is the process of drawing electoral districts for government
8 representatives in the State and federal governments to ensure the equal representation of
9 the people; and

10 WHEREAS, Article III, § 4 of the Maryland Constitution establishes standards for
11 the drawing of State legislative districts, including contiguity, compactness, due regard for
12 natural and community boundaries, and a substantially equal population in each district;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Article II, § 16 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of
15 Pennsylvania establishes the standards for the drawing of Pennsylvania’s legislative
16 districts, including contiguity, compactness, due regard for natural and community
17 boundaries, and a substantially equal population in each district; and

18 WHEREAS, Gerrymandering is the long-standing practice of drawing the
19 boundaries of electoral districts to favor specific political interests within legislative bodies
20 while giving less weight to traditional districting standards; and

21 WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania found that the 2011 Congressional
22 District plan “clearly, plainly and palpably” violated the standards applied to state
23 legislative districts in the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania determining
24 that state legislative districting standards also apply to congressional districting; and

25 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court denied the Commonwealth of
26 Pennsylvania’s petition for certiorari in *The League of Women Voters of Pa. v. The*



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1 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania case, thereby allowing the Supreme Court of
2 Pennsylvania's ruling to stand; now, therefore, be it

3 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND**, That, based on the
4 Pennsylvania's Supreme Court ruling in *The League of Women Voters of Pa. v. The*
5 *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* that the districting standards for state legislative districts
6 should be the same for both state legislative and congressional districts and that the U. S.
7 Supreme Court did not disagree, the same principle should apply in Maryland, so that our
8 standards for State legislative districts in Article III, § 4 of the Maryland Constitution
9 should apply also to congressional districts; and be it further

10 **RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
11 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the
12 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
13 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.