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I N S E N A T E

May 19, 2010

Introduced by Sens. DILAN, SAMPSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged and said bill committed to the Committee on Elections -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the legislative law, in relation to establishing the legislative advisory commission on redistricting and demographic research

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 83-m of the legislative law, as added by chapter
2 141 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:
3 S 83-m. Legislative [task force on demographic research and reapportionment] ADVISORY COMMISSION ON REDISTRICTING AND DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH.
4 [1.] The legislature hereby finds and declares that: (a) there is a need
5 for intensive and thorough legislative study, research and inquiry into
6 the techniques and methodology to be used by the bureau of the census of
7 the United States commerce department in carrying out the decennial
8 federal census; (b) a technical plan will be needed to meet the requirements of a legislative timetable for a [reapportionment] REDISTRICTING
9 of the senate and assembly districts and the congressional districts of
10 the state based on such census; and (c) the [task force] COMMISSION
11 herein continued is necessary to assist the legislature in the performance of its responsibilities and in the conduct of legislative research projects relating thereto.
12 [2. The legislative task force on demographic research and reapportionment is hereby continued, consisting of six members of whom two
13 shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate, two by the speaker of the assembly and one each by the minority leader of the
14 senate and the minority leader of the assembly. The appointments shall
15 be of members of the respective houses of the legislature, except that
16 one member appointed by the temporary president of the senate and one
17 member appointed by the speaker of the assembly shall not be members of
18 the legislature. A member of the senate appointed to the task force by

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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1 the temporary president of the senate and a member of the assembly
2 appointed to the task force by the speaker of the assembly shall be
3 designated by each to serve as the co-chairmen of the task force. Each
4 member of the task force who is not a member of the legislature shall be
5 entitled to receive actual and necessary expenses incurred in the
6 discharge of his duties and shall be entitled to compensation as deter-
7 mined by the co-chairmen within the appropriations available therefor,
8 except that such member, who is serving in such capacity in a transient,
9 occasional and incidental manner, shall not be entitled to receive more
10 than the actual and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of his
11 duties.

12 3. The task force shall engage in such research studies and other
13 activities as its co-chairmen may deem necessary or appropriate in the
14 preparation and formulation of a reapportionment plan for the next ensu-
15 ing reapportionment of senate and assembly districts and congressional
16 districts of the state and in the utilization of census and other demo-
17 graphic and statistical data for policy analysis, program development
18 and program evaluation purposes for the legislature.

19 4. The co-chairmen of the task force may employ such personnel,
20 experts and consultants as may be necessary for the performance of its
21 work and shall fix their compensation within the amounts appropriated
22 therefor.

23 5. The primary function of the task force shall be to compile and
24 analyze data, conduct research for and make reports and recommendations
25 to the legislature, legislative commissions and other legislative task
26 forces.

27 6. The task force, with the approval of its co-chairmen and subject
28 to guidelines submitted by the co-chairmen and approved by the temporary
29 president of the senate and speaker of the assembly, may sell surveys,
30 data, copies of tabulations and other special statistical compilations
31 and materials to departments, agencies and other entities of federal,
32 state or local government, of foreign countries, and to public benefit
33 corporations, or other public, not-for-profit and private persons and
34 agencies, upon payment of fees at least sufficient to pay the actual or
35 estimated cost of such projects. In furtherance of such sale, the task
36 force, with the approval of its co-chairmen, may execute contracts for
37 such purpose. Any contract executed heretofore by the task force or the
38 advisory task force on reapportionment, without express statutory
39 authorization, of a nature similar in import as the contract for sale
40 herein authorized is hereby validated, ratified and confirmed as an
41 exercise of the inherent power of such task force or such advisory task
42 force to execute such contract. The co-chairmen shall take such action
43 as shall be necessary to assure that any survey, data, tabulation,
44 special statistical compilation or material made available for sale
45 shall not identify the name of any corporation, company, association,
46 firm, partnership, proprietorship, society, joint stock company, indi-
47 vidual, or other organization or entity.

48 7. Moneys heretofore or hereafter received by or on behalf of the
49 legislative task force on demographic research and reapportionment from
50 the sale of surveys, data, copies of tabulations and other special
51 statistical compilations and materials available to such task force
52 shall be deposited to the credit of the legislative computer services
53 fund established by section ninety-seven-uu of the state finance law.
54 The moneys hereby credited to such fund may be made available for the
55 legislative task force on demographic research and reapportionment and
56 shall, when made available, be payable out of the state treasury on the

1 audit and warrant of the comptroller in the manner provided by section
2 ninety-seven-uu of the state finance law.

3 8. The co-chairmen of the task force are hereby authorized and
4 empowered to make and sign any agreements in the name and on behalf of
5 the task force and to do and perform any acts that may be necessary,
6 desirable or proper to carry out the powers, purposes and objectives of
7 the task force and the provisions thereof.

8 9. The task force, with the approval of its co-chairmen, may complete
9 any contract executed and conduct any business undertaken or commenced
10 by the legislature or the advisory task force on reapportionment
11 pertaining to or connected with the reapportionment and readjustment or
12 alteration of senate and assembly and congressional districts prior to
13 the enactment of these provisions into law, and the same shall be
14 completed and conducted in the same manner and under the same terms and
15 conditions and with the same effect as if completed and conducted by the
16 legislature or such advisory task force.

17 10. The task force may hold public and private hearings and otherwise
18 have all of the powers of a legislative committee under this chapter.

19 11. The co-chairmen of the task force may request and receive from
20 any court, department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of
21 the state or any political subdivision thereof such assistance and data
22 as will enable the task force to properly carry out its powers and
23 duties hereunder.

24 12. Employees of the task force shall be considered to be employees
25 of the legislature for all purposes.]

26 S 2. Legislative advisory commission on redistricting and demographic
27 research. a. There shall be a legislative advisory commission on redis-
28 tricting and demographic research (the "commission") to draw senate,
29 assembly and congressional districts, so that all the people of New York
30 may be fairly represented. The commission shall consist of nine members.
31 No person shall be a member of the commission who is not a registered
32 voter in the state of New York, and who has not been, at the time of
33 appointment, a resident of the state of New York for five years. No
34 member of the senate or assembly, no member of congress, and no person
35 holding judicial office, shall be a member of the districting commis-
36 sion. The temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of the
37 senate, the speaker of the assembly, and the minority leader of the
38 assembly shall each appoint two members for a term of ten years commenc-
39 ing on the first day of April of the year preceding the year in which
40 the federal decennial census is taken, except that, if this act shall
41 become effective after such date, the terms of the members shall
42 commence as soon as possible. If a seat on the commission shall fall
43 vacant, the officer of the legislature who appointed the original member
44 shall appoint a member to complete the unexpired term; except that, if
45 more than two members appointed by the officers of either house would
46 then have been appointed by an officer of the same party, then the other
47 officer of the same house shall appoint a member to fill the vacancy.
48 The ninth member, who shall be the chair of the commission, shall be
49 appointed by a vote of at least six of the other eight members, includ-
50 ing at least one appointed by each appointing authority, to a term that
51 shall expire at the same time as the terms of the other members.

52 b. The senate, assembly, and congressional districts shall be devel-
53 oped by a vote of at least five members of the commission, including the
54 affirmative vote of the chair of the commission. The plans of senate,
55 assembly, and congressional districts developed by the commission shall
56 be submitted to the legislature for enactment. The senate and assembly

1 districts shall be enacted into law no later than the last day of Janu-
2 ary of the second year following the year in which the federal decennial
3 census is taken. The commission shall issue a report explaining how the
4 districts comply with the requirements of section three of this act.
5 Congressional districts shall be enacted into law no later than the last
6 day of March of the second year following the year in which the federal
7 decennial census is taken. The commission shall at that time issue a
8 report explaining how the districts comply with the requirements of
9 section three of this act. The commission shall meet and make remedial
10 adjustments to plans for congressional, assembly and senate districts
11 should the legislature fail to adopt the commission's plan. Any such
12 revised plans shall be submitted to the legislature for proper consider-
13 ation. Such districts shall become effective for the next ensuing gener-
14 al election of senators, assembly members, and members of congress. The
15 senate, assembly and congressional districts shall remain unaltered
16 until after the subsequent federal decennial census, except that, if an
17 alteration of such districts shall be ordered by a court of competent
18 jurisdiction, or if such districts shall be prevented from taking effect
19 pursuant to this act or to any provision of the constitution and laws of
20 the United States, the commission shall recommend necessary alterations
21 to the legislature to provide a remedy. All votes of the commission
22 shall be taken at public meetings, and the commission shall cause tran-
23 scripts of all meetings and hearings, including all testimony submitted
24 in writing, to be made publicly available. The commission shall promote
25 informed public understanding of, and participation in, the process of
26 redistricting, by such means as providing information to the public,
27 holding hearings and adequate public comment before and after each plan
28 is developed, and encouraging submission of proposals.

29 c. The legislature shall make necessary appropriations for the
30 expenses of the commission, provide for compensation and reimbursement
31 of expenses for the members and staff of the commission, assign to the
32 commission any additional duties that the legislature may deem necessary
33 to the performance of the duties stipulated in this act, and require
34 other agencies and officials of the state of New York and its political
35 subdivisions to provide such information and assistance as the commis-
36 sion may require to perform its duties.

37 d. Subject to such reasonable regulations as the legislature shall
38 promulgate, the commission shall, with the approval of the temporary
39 president of the senate, minority leader of the senate, the speaker of
40 the assembly and the minority leader of the assembly as may be necessary
41 to perform its duties, hire staff, enter into contracts, conduct
42 research, hold hearings, and communicate with the public; shall assemble
43 and maintain such geographic, demographic, election and voter registra-
44 tion data as may be necessary for the analysis and evaluation of
45 proposed and established plans of senate, assembly, and congressional
46 districts, including, but not limited to, the compliance of such plans
47 with the provisions of this act and with the constitution and laws of
48 the United States; and shall cause all such data, and all expert
49 reports, results of any other research conducted under a contract
50 entered into by the commission, and proposals for districts submitted by
51 the public, to be made publicly available.

52 e. Each member of the commission shall be entitled to receive actual
53 and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of his duties and shall
54 be entitled to compensation as determined by the chair within the appro-
55 priations available therefor.

1 f. The commission, with the approval of its chair and subject to
2 guidelines submitted by the chair and approved by the temporary presi-
3 dent of the senate and speaker of the assembly, may sell surveys, data,
4 copies of tabulations and other special statistical compilations and
5 materials to departments, agencies and other entities of federal, state
6 or local government, of foreign countries, and to public benefit corpo-
7 rations, or other public, not-for-profit and private persons and agen-
8 cies, upon payment of fees at least sufficient to pay the actual or
9 estimated cost of such projects. In furtherance of such sale, the
10 commission, with the approval of its chair, may execute contracts for
11 such purpose. Any contract executed heretofore by the commission, with-
12 out express statutory authorization, of a nature similar in import as
13 the contract for sale herein authorized is hereby validated, ratified
14 and confirmed as an exercise of the inherent power of such commission to
15 execute such contract. The chair shall take such action as shall be
16 necessary to assure that any survey, data, tabulation, special statis-
17 tical compilation or material made available for sale shall not identify
18 the name of any corporation, company, association, firm, partnership,
19 proprietorship, society, joint stock company, individual, or other
20 organization or entity.

21 g. Moneys heretofore or hereafter received by or on behalf of the
22 commission from the sale of surveys, data, copies of tabulations and
23 other special statistical compilations and materials available to such
24 commission shall be deposited to the credit of the legislative computer
25 services fund established by section 97-uu of the state finance law.
26 The moneys hereby credited to such fund may be made available for the
27 commission and shall, when made available, be payable out of the state
28 treasury on the audit and warrant of the comptroller in the manner
29 provided by section 97-uu of the state finance law.

30 h. The chair of the commission is hereby authorized and empowered to
31 make and sign any agreements in the name and on behalf of the commission
32 and to do and perform any acts that may be necessary, desirable or prop-
33 er to carry out the powers, purposes and objectives of the commission
34 and the provisions thereof.

35 i. The commission, with the approval of its chair, may complete any
36 contract executed and conduct any business undertaken or commenced by
37 the commission pertaining to or connected with the redistricting and
38 readjustment or alteration of senate and assembly and congressional
39 districts prior to the enactment of these provisions into law, and the
40 same shall be completed and conducted in the same manner and under the
41 same terms and conditions and with the same effect as if completed and
42 conducted by the legislature or such commission.

43 j. The commission may hold public and private hearings and otherwise
44 have all of the powers of a legislative committee under this chapter.

45 k. The chair of the commission may request and receive from any
46 court, department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the
47 state or any political subdivision thereof such assistance and data as
48 will enable the commission to properly carry out its powers and duties
49 hereunder.

50 l. Employees of the commission shall be considered to be employees of
51 the legislature for all purposes.

52 S 3. Criteria to be followed. a. All districts of a house of the
53 legislature shall be as nearly equal in population as is practical,
54 except as necessary to satisfy the requirements of subdivisions c, e,
55 and f of this section, but the difference in population between the most
56 and least populous senate districts shall not exceed ten percent of the

1 mean population of all senate districts, and the difference in popu-
2 lation between the most and least populous assembly districts shall not
3 exceed ten percent of the mean population of all assembly districts. For
4 any contiguous group of senate or assembly districts, the percentage of
5 the total number of such districts contained within such group, and the
6 percentage of the total population of the state contained within such
7 group, both expressed as two-digit numbers followed by two-digit deci-
8 mals, shall not differ by an amount greater than 0.50. The populations
9 of any two senate or assembly districts adjoining within a county subdivi-
10 sion, or, in a city with a population of one million or more, within a
11 county, shall not differ by an amount greater than two percent of the
12 mean population of such two districts.

13 b. All congressional districts shall be as nearly equal in population
14 as is practicable.

15 c. Each district shall consist of contiguous territory; no district
16 shall consist of parts entirely separated by the territory of another
17 district of the same body, whether such territory be land or water,
18 populated or unpopulated. A populated census block shall not be divided
19 by a district boundary, unless it can be determined that the populated
20 part of such block is within a single district.

21 d. The whole number of persons reported in the federal decennial
22 census shall be the basis for determining populations for the purposes
23 of this act, except that, for the purpose of determining the populations
24 of senate and assembly districts, no person shall be deemed to have
25 gained or lost a residence by reason of conviction and incarceration in
26 a federal or state correctional facility.

27 e. Senate, assembly, or congressional districts shall not be estab-
28 lished that result in a denial to members of racial and linguistic
29 minority groups of an equal opportunity with other citizens to partic-
30 ipate in the political process and to elect the representatives of their
31 choice. The principles stated in subdivision f of this section shall be
32 used to create districts that will afford fair representation to the
33 members of those racial and linguistic minority groups who are suffi-
34 ciently numerous and whose residential patterns afford the opportunity
35 of creating districts in which they will be able to elect represen-
36 tatives of their choice.

37 f. Subject and subsidiary to the requirements of subdivisions a, b, c,
38 d, and e of this section, the following principles shall be followed in
39 the creation of senate, assembly, and congressional districts. A princi-
40 ple with a lower number shall have precedence over a principle with a
41 higher number.

42 i. To the extent possible, counties shall not be divided in the forma-
43 tion of districts, except to create districts wholly within a county
44 pursuant to state law.

45 ii. Where possible, county subdivisions shall not be divided in the
46 formation of districts, except to create districts wholly within a coun-
47 ty subdivision. For the purposes of this act, a county subdivision shall
48 be a city (except for a city with a population of one million or more),
49 a town, or an Indian reservation whose territory is exclusive of the
50 territory of any city or town. To the extent possible, county subdivi-
51 sions with larger populations shall be divided in preference to division
52 of those with smaller populations.

53 iii. If a town must be divided, where possible, incorporated villages
54 shall not be divided.

55 iv. Senate, assembly, and congressional districts shall be as compact
56 in form as is possible. Plans of senate, assembly, or congressional

1 districts shall be compared, using average numerical measures, for each
2 such plan, of: (1) geographic dispersion, the degree to which the terri-
3 tory of districts is either tightly packed or widely spread out, (2) the
4 relation of the perimeter lengths to the areas of districts, and (3) the
5 dispersion of the populations of districts; but no measure shall be
6 employed that is scale-sensitive, according different weight to the
7 compactness of districts in rural, as compared with urban areas, or
8 yielding different measures for identically shaped districts that differ
9 only in absolute size.

10 v. To the extent possible, a senate, assembly, or congressional
11 district shall unite communities defined by actual shared interests,
12 taking account of geographic, social, economic, and other factors that
13 indicate commonality of interest, and districts shall be formed so as to
14 promote the orderly and efficient administration of elections.

15 vi. To the extent possible, the residences of two or more incumbent
16 members of the same body shall not be placed in the same district of
17 such body, and the residences of incumbent legislators and members of
18 congress shall be included in the district with the largest number of
19 their existing constituents, but the requirements of subdivisions a, b,
20 c, d, and e of this section, and of paragraphs i, ii, iii, iv, and v of
21 this subdivision, shall always take precedence over, and shall never be
22 subordinated to, the requirements of this paragraph or the preservation
23 of the cores of existing districts.

24 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that
25 the amendments to section 83-m of the legislative law made by section
26 one of this act shall not affect the expiration and repeal of such
27 section and shall expire and be deemed repealed therewith.