S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

6482

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

March 21, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. OAKS, KOLB, AMEDORE, BARCLAY, BLANKENBUSH, BOYLE, BURLING, BUTLER, CALHOUN, CASTELLI, CERETTO, CONTE, CROUCH, DUPREY, FINCH, FITZPATRICK, FRIEND, GIGLIO, GOODELL, HAWLEY, HAYES, JORDAN, KATZ, KIRWAN, LOSQUADRO, MALLIOTAKIS, McLAUGHLIN, D. MILLER, MOLINARO, MURRAY, PALMESANO, RABBITT, RAIA, SAYWARD, SMARDZ, TEDISCO, TOBACCO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the legislative law and the municipal home rule law, in relation to redistricting of congressional, senate and assembly districts; to repeal section 83-m of the legislative law relating to the legislative task force on demographic research and reapportionment; and to repeal subdivision 8 of section 71 of the correction law relating to the collection of census data

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Redistricting Reform Act of 2011."

S 2. Subdivision 3 of section 5-a of the legislative law, as added by chapter 630 of the laws of 1998, the opening paragraph as amended by section 1 of part QQ of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

3. Any member of the assembly serving in a special capacity in a position set forth in the following schedule shall be paid the allowance set forth in such schedule only for the legislative term commencing January first, two thousand eleven and terminating December thirty-first, two thousand twelve:

ASSEMBLYMEN SERVING IN SPECIAL CAPACITY

Chairman of legislative commission on public management systems 12,500

Chairman of legislative commission on science and

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

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technology 12,500
Co-chairman of the legislative commission on water resource needs of New York state and Long Island ..... no allowance
[Co-chairman of the legislative task force on demographic research and reapportionment ..... 15,000]
Chairman of the assembly task force on farm, food and nutrition 12,500
Ranking minority member of the assembly task force on farm, food and nutrition 9,000
Chairman of the legislative commission on skills development and career education 12,500
Vice-Chairman of the legislative commission on the development of rural resources 12,500

S 3. Subdivision 5 of section 12 of the legislative law, as added by chapter 141 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

5. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, services and expenses of the legislative health service, legislative library, legislative messenger service, legislative ethics committee, [joint operations of the legislative task force on demographic research and reapportionment] INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, and contributions to the national conference of state legislatures shall be payable after audit by and on the warrant of the comptroller upon vouchers certified by the temporary president of the senate or his or her designee and the speaker of the assembly or his or her designee.

S 4. Section 83-m of the legislative law is REPEALED.

S 5. Subdivision 8 of section 71 of the correction law is REPEALED.

S 6. The opening paragraph, subclause (i.) of clause (a.) and clause (c.) of subparagraph 13 of paragraph a of subdivision 1 of section 10 of the municipal home rule law, as amended by section 3 of part XX of chapter 57 of the laws of 2010, are amended to read as follows:

The apportionment of its legislative body and, only in connection with such action taken pursuant to this subparagraph, the composition and membership of such body, the terms of office of members thereof, the units of local government or other areas from which representatives are to be chosen and the voting powers of individual members of such legislative body. [Except for the equal apportionment requirements in subclause (i.) of clause (a.) and clause (c.) of this subparagraph, which shall apply generally to any local government, the] THE power granted by this subparagraph shall be in addition to and not in substitution for any other power and the provisions of this subparagraph shall apply only to local governments which adopt a plan of apportionment thereunder.

(i.) The plan shall provide substantially equal weight for ALL the [population] VOTERS of that local government in the allocation of representation in the local legislative body.

(c.) As used in this subparagraph the term "population" shall mean residents, citizens, or registered voters. [For such purposes, no person shall be deemed to have gained or lost a residence, or to have become a resident of a local government, as defined in subdivision eight of section two of this chapter, by reason of being subject to the jurisdiction of the department of correctional services and present in a state correctional facility pursuant to such jurisdiction.] A population base for such a plan of apportionment shall utilize the latest statistical information obtainable from an official enumeration done at the same time for all the residents, citizens, or registered voters of the local government. Such a plan may allocate, by extrapolation or any other

rational method, such latest statistical information to representation areas or units of local government, provided that any plan containing such an allocation shall have annexed thereto as an appendix, a detailed explanation of the allocation.

S 7. The legislative law is amended by adding a new article 6-A to read as follows:

ARTICLE 6-A

REDISTRICTING OF CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

SECTION 93. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.
94. INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE.
95. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEE.
96. INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.
97. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION.
98. REDISTRICTING.
99. APPLICATION OF ARTICLE.

S 93. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. THE LEGISLATURE HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

1. THERE IS A NEED FOR INTENSIVE AND THOROUGH STUDY, RESEARCH AND INQUIRY INTO THE TECHNIQUES AND METHODOLOGY TO BE USED BY THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES COMMERCE DEPARTMENT IN CARRYING OUT THE DECENNIAL FEDERAL CENSUS;

2. A TECHNICAL PLAN WILL BE NEEDED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF A LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE FOR A REDISTRICTING OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS AND THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF THE STATE BASED ON SUCH CENSUS;

3. AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION IS NECESSARY TO ASSIST THE LEGISLATURE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND IN THE CONDUCT OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS RELATING THERETO; AND

4. SUCH A COMMISSION IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC'S INTEREST IN FAIR AND PROPER ELECTIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITY VOTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS AND TO ELECT REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR CHOICE.

S 94. INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE. 1. ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST OF DECEMBER OF EACH YEAR ENDING WITH A NINE, EXCEPT THAT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REDISTRICTING PLAN EFFECTIVE FOR TWO THOUSAND TWELVE, THIS DATE SHALL BE NO MORE THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ARTICLE, THERE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE TO SELECT THOSE PERSONS WHO SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO BE APPOINTED AS MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION CREATED IN SECTION NINETY-SIX OF THIS ARTICLE. EACH SUCH COMMITTEE SHALL REMAIN IN EXISTENCE UNTIL ITS DUTIES PURSUANT TO SECTION NINETY-FIVE OF THIS ARTICLE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

2. THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SHALL BE COMPOSED OF TEN MEMBERS, APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

(B) TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY;

(C) TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE;

(D) TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY; AND

(E) TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL PARTY WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF ENROLLED VOTERS IN NEW YORK STATE AND ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A REGISTERED

MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL PARTY WITH THE SECOND LARGEST NUMBER OF ENROLLED VOTERS IN NEW YORK STATE.

3. THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SHALL DESIGNATE TWO CO-CHAIRS FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE OF ALL MEMBERS.

4. THE MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SHALL BE REGISTERED VOTERS IN THIS STATE. NO MEMBER OF SUCH COMMITTEE SHALL:

(A) HAVE BEEN WITHIN THE PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE OR THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS;

(B) HOLD OR HAVE HELD WITHIN THE PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS ANY POLITICAL PARTY POSITION;

(C) BE EMPLOYED OR HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED WITHIN THE PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS IN ANY OTHER POSITION BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, THE STATE LEGISLATURE, OR THE EXECUTIVE CHAMBER;

(D) BE OR HAVE BEEN WITHIN THE PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS A REGISTERED LOBBYIST IN THIS STATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE-A OF THIS CHAPTER;

(E) BE THE SPOUSE OF ANY MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, THE STATE LEGISLATURE, OR THE EXECUTIVE CHAMBER;

(F) BE RELATED WITHIN THE THIRD DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY TO ANY MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, THE STATE LEGISLATURE, OR THE EXECUTIVE CHAMBER.

5. THE MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICES, BUT SHALL BE ALLOWED THEIR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.

6. THE MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SHALL BE APPOINTED AND SERVE FOR THE DURATION OF SUCH COMMITTEE. ALL VACANCIES IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF SUCH COMMITTEE SHALL BE FILLED IN THE MANNER PROVIDED FOR ORIGINAL APPOINTMENTS.

S 95. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEE. 1. THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE THE POWER AND DUTY TO, ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST OF MARCH IN EACH YEAR ENDING WITH A ZERO EXCEPT THAT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REDISTRICTING PLAN EFFECTIVE FOR TWO THOUSAND TWELVE, THIS DATE SHALL BE NO MORE THAT SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ARTICLE, ESTABLISH A LIST OF FORTY PERSONS WHO SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO BE APPOINTED AS MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION. SUCH LIST SHALL HEREINAFTER BE REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE AS THE "NOMINATIONS POOL".

2. THE MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SHALL BY A SUPER MAJORITY VOTE OF AT LEAST SEVEN MEMBERS SELECT EACH PERSON TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NOMINATIONS POOL. UPON COMPLETION OF SUCH POOL, SUCH COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT A COPY OF THE NOMINATIONS POOL TO THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY.

3. THE NOMINATIONS POOL SHALL INCLUDE:

(A) FIFTEEN PERSONS WHO ARE ENROLLED AS DEMOCRATS;

(B) FIFTEEN PERSONS WHO ARE ENROLLED AS REPUBLICANS; AND

(C) TEN PERSONS WHO ARE NOT ENROLLED AS EITHER DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICANS.

4. PERSONS SELECTED TO THE NOMINATIONS POOL SHALL BE REGISTERED VOTERS IN THIS STATE. NO SUCH PERSON SHALL:

(A) HAVE BEEN WITHIN THE PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE;

(B) HOLD OR HAVE HELD WITHIN THE PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS ANY POLITICAL PARTY POSITION;

(C) BE A MEMBER OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE CREATED IN SECTION NINETY-FOUR OF THIS ARTICLE;

(D) BE EMPLOYED OR HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED WITHIN THE PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS IN ANY OTHER POSITION BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, THE STATE LEGISLATURE, OR THE EXECUTIVE CHAMBER;

(E) BE OR HAVE BEEN WITHIN THE PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS A REGISTERED LOBBYIST IN THIS STATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE-A OF THIS CHAPTER;

(F) BE THE SPOUSE OF ANY MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, THE STATE LEGISLATURE, OR THE EXECUTIVE CHAMBER; OR

(G) BE RELATED WITHIN THE THIRD DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY TO ANY MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, THE STATE LEGISLATURE, OR THE EXECUTIVE CHAMBER.

5. (A) THE NOMINATIONS POOL SHALL INCLUDE AT LEAST THREE PERSONS FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING REGIONS OF THE STATE, WITH THE REMAINDER TO BE NOMINATED FROM SUCH REGIONS IN PROPORTION TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE STATE'S POPULATION IN EACH REGION:

(I) LONG ISLAND;

(II) NEW YORK CITY;

(III) HUDSON VALLEY;

(IV) NORTHERN;

(V) CENTRAL;

(VI) SOUTHERN TIER; AND

(VII) WESTERN.

(B) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, THE FOLLOWING REGIONS SHALL BE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES:

(I) LONG ISLAND: THE COUNTIES OF NASSAU AND SUFFOLK;

(II) NEW YORK CITY: THE COUNTIES OF BRONX, KINGS, NEW YORK, QUEENS AND RICHMOND;

(III) HUDSON VALLEY: THE COUNTIES OF WESTCHESTER, ROCKLAND, PUTNAM, ORANGE, DUTCHESS, ULSTER, COLUMBIA, GREENE, RENSSELAER, ALBANY AND SCHENECTADY;

(IV) NORTHERN: THE COUNTIES OF SARATOGA, WASHINGTON, WARREN, ESSEX, CLINTON, FRANKLIN, ST. LAWRENCE, HAMILTON, FULTON, HERKIMER, LEWIS AND JEFFERSON;

(V) CENTRAL: THE COUNTIES OF SCHOHARIE, MONTGOMERY, OTSEGO, CHENANGO, MADISON, ONEIDA, OSWEGO, CORTLAND, ONONDAGA AND CAYUGA;

(VI) SOUTHERN TIER: THE COUNTIES OF SULLIVAN, DELAWARE, BROOME, TIOGA, TOMPKINS, CHEMUNG, SCHUYLER, STEUBEN, ALLEGANY, CATTARAUGUS AND CHAUTAUQUA; AND

(VII) WESTERN: THE COUNTIES OF SENECA, YATES, ONTARIO, WAYNE, MONROE, LIVINGSTON, WYOMING, GENESEE, ORLEANS, NIAGARA AND ERIE.

6. TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SHALL ENSURE THAT THE NOMINATIONS POOL REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE STATE WITH REGARD TO RACE, ETHNICITY AND GENDER AND SHALL CONSULT WITH ORGANIZATIONS DEVOTED TO PROTECTING THE VOTING RIGHTS OF MINORITY AND OTHER VOTERS CONCERNING POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE NOMINATIONS POOL.

S 96. INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION. 1. THERE SHALL BE CREATED AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TO ASSIST THE LEGISLATURE IN THE REDISTRICTING OF CONGRESSIONAL, SENATE AND ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS BASED ON THE ENSUING FEDERAL CENSUS, PURSUANT TO SECTION TWO OF ARTICLE ONE OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND SECTIONS FOUR AND FIVE OF ARTICLE THREE OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

2. THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL BE COMPOSED OF ELEVEN MEMBERS, APPOINTED FROM THE NOMINATIONS POOL NO LATER THAN FOURTEEN CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE NOMINATION POOL HAS BEEN SELECTED, AS FOLLOWS:

(A) TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

(B) TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY;

(C) TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE;

(D) TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY; AND

(E) THREE MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE LAST OF THE EIGHT LEGISLATIVE APPOINTEES, AND SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE EIGHT MEMBERS APPOINTED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPHS (A) THROUGH (D) OF THIS SUBDIVISION BY A VOTE OF NOT LESS THAN SIX MEMBERS IN FAVOR OF EACH SUCH APPOINTMENT. EACH VACANCY IN ANY POSITION FILLED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE DEEMED TO CREATE VACANCIES IN ALL THREE POSITIONS HELD BY THE MEMBERS SO APPOINTED; PROVIDED THAT ANY SUCH MEMBER MAY BE REAPPOINTED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH. IN THE EVENT THAT THREE MEMBERS ARE NOT APPOINTED ON OR BEFORE THE THIRTIETH DAY AFTER A VACANCY IN ANY SUCH POSITION OCCURS, THE FOLLOWING SELECTION PROCESS SHALL GOVERN THE FILLING OF THOSE VACANCIES:

(I) IF TWO PERSONS ARE APPOINTED WITH THE REQUIRED SIX VOTES AND NO OTHER PERSON RECEIVES SIX VOTES, THE THIRD SUCH MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER: THE NINE PERSONS RECEIVING THE MOST VOTES WILL BE PLACED ON A LIST. EACH MEMBER APPOINTED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPHS (A), (B), (C), AND (D) OF THIS SUBDIVISION, SHALL ALTERNATELY STRIKE FROM THE LIST ONE OF THE NAMES WITH THE ORDER OF STRIKING DETERMINED BY LOT UNTIL THE REMAINING ONE PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED;

(II) IF ONE PERSON IS APPOINTED WITH THE REQUIRED SIX VOTES AND NO TWO OTHER PERSONS RECEIVE SIX VOTES, THE TWO PERSONS RECEIVING THE MOST VOTES SHALL BE APPOINTED AS MEMBERS; AND

(III) IF NO THREE PERSONS RECEIVE SIX VOTES, THE TWO PERSONS RECEIVING THE MOST VOTES SHALL BE APPOINTED AS MEMBERS AND THE THIRD MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER: THE NINE PERSONS RECEIVING THE MOST VOTES WILL BE PLACED ON A LIST. EACH MEMBER APPOINTED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPHS (A), (B), (C), AND (D) OF THIS SUBDIVISION, SHALL ALTERNATELY STRIKE FROM THE LIST ONE OF THE NAMES WITH THE ORDER OF STRIKING DETERMINED BY LOT UNTIL THE REMAINING ONE PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED.

(F) THE CHAIR SHALL BE DESIGNATED, FROM AMONG THE THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (E) OF THIS SUBDIVISION, BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

3. (A) NO MORE THAN FOUR MEMBERS OF THE EIGHT MEMBERS APPOINTED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPHS (A) THROUGH (D) OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE ENROLLED IN THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY.

(B) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF THE RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE WITH REGARD TO RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER AND GEOGRAPHIC RESIDENCE AND THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL CONSULT WITH ORGANIZATIONS DEVOTED TO PROTECTING THE VOTING RIGHTS OF MINORITY AND OTHER VOTERS CONCERNING POTENTIAL APPOINTEES TO THE COMMISSION.

4. THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL EXPIRE UPON THE FILING OF ALL REDISTRICTING PLANS, PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION FOUR, FIVE AND/OR SIX OF SECTION NINETY-EIGHT OF THIS ARTICLE, THE EXHAUSTION OF ANY JUDICIAL REVIEW OF A REDISTRICTING PLAN AND APPORTIONMENT STATUTE, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A REDISTRICTING STATUTE. VACANCIES IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE FILLED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS IN THE MANNER PROVIDED FOR ORIGINAL APPOINTMENTS.

5. THE EMPLOYEES OF THE FORMER LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO FORMER SECTION

EIGHTY-THREE-M OF THE LEGISLATIVE LAW SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION AS EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUDGET. SUCH TRANSFER SHALL NOT IN ANY WAY AFFECT THE CIVIL SERVICE OR PROFESSIONAL STATUS, CONTINUITY OF SERVICE, RETIREMENT PLAN STATUS, COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING REPRESENTATION, RIGHT TO COMPENSATION, GRADE OR COMPENSATION OR OTHER RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF ANY EMPLOYEE SO TRANSFERRED. FOR PURPOSES OF SECTIONS SEVENTY-THREE, SEVENTY-THREE-A AND SEVENTY-FOUR OF THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW AND SECTION NINETY-FOUR OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW, THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION IS A STATE AGENCY, ITS MEMBER AND EMPLOYEES OF WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS THEREOF.

6. THE MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICES, BUT SHALL BE ALLOWED THEIR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE.

7. A MINIMUM OF EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM FOR THE TRANSACTION OF ANY BUSINESS OR THE EXERCISE OF ANY POWER OF SUCH COMMISSION, PROVIDED THAT NO EXERCISE OF ANY POWER OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL OCCUR WITHOUT THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF SEVEN MEMBERS THEREOF.

S 97. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION. THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL HAVE THE POWER AND DUTY TO:

1. EMPLOY AND AT PLEASURE REMOVE SUCH PERSONNEL AS IT MAY DEEM NECESSARY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS FUNCTIONS AND FIX THEIR COMPENSATION WITHIN THE AMOUNTS MADE AVAILABLE THEREFOR;

2. MEET WITHIN THE STATE, HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS AND HAVE ALL THE POWERS OF A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO THIS CHAPTER;

3. REQUEST, RECEIVE AND UTILIZE SUCH FACILITIES, RESOURCES AND DATA (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, HISTORICAL VOTING INFORMATION AND PATTERNS) OF ANY DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, BOARD, BUREAU, COMMISSION OR AGENCY OF THE STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THEREOF AS IT MAY REASONABLY REQUEST TO PROPERLY CARRY OUT ITS POWERS AND DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE;

4. ACQUIRE AND UTILIZE ALL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH REDISTRICTING PLANS PURSUANT TO SECTION NINETY-EIGHT OF THIS ARTICLE;

5. PREPARE THE NECESSARY DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE GEOGRAPHIC UNITS OF THE STATE FOR USE BY THE FEDERAL CENSUS BUREAU IN REPORTING DECENNIAL FEDERAL CENSUS DATA;

6. ENGAGE IN SUCH RESEARCH STUDIES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AS NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE IN THE PREPARATION AND FORMULATION OF A REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR THE NEXT ENSUING REDISTRICTING OF SENATE AND ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF THE STATE AND IN THE UTILIZATION OF CENSUS AND OTHER DEMOGRAPHIC AND STATISTICAL DATA FOR POLICY ANALYSIS, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION PURPOSES FOR THE LEGISLATURE;

7. SELL SURVEYS, DATA, COPIES OF TABULATIONS AND OTHER SPECIAL STATISTICAL COMPILATIONS AND MATERIALS TO DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES AND OTHER ENTITIES OF FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES, AND TO PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATIONS, OR OTHER PUBLIC, NOT-FOR-PROFIT AND PRIVATE PERSONS AND AGENCIES, UPON PAYMENT OF FEES AT LEAST SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE ACTUAL OR ESTIMATED COST OF SUCH PROJECTS. IN FURTHERANCE OF SUCH SALE, THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MAY EXECUTE CONTRACTS FOR SUCH PURPOSE;

8. PREPARE MAPS OF CITIES, TOWNS AND COUNTIES OF THE STATE FOR DESCRIBING CONGRESSIONAL, SENATE AND ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS, AND PREPARE REDISTRICTING PLANS AND LEGISLATION; AND

9. MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN PRINT FORM AND IN ELECTRONIC FORM ON THE INTERNET, USING THE BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY, ALL REDISTRICTING PLANS, RELEVANT DATA AND MAPMAKING SOFTWARE USED TO PREPARE SUCH PLANS, INFORMATION ON THE MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION AND ALL OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION DERIVED FROM THE OPERATION OF THIS ARTICLE.

S 98. REDISTRICTING. 1. THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, SHALL UPON RECEIPT OF THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS FOR THE STATE, BEGIN TO ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR THE REDISTRICTING OF CONGRESSIONAL, SENATE AND ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS IN THE STATE. THE FEDERAL CENSUS TAKEN IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TEN AND EACH FEDERAL CENSUS TAKEN DECENNIALLY THEREAFTER SHALL BE CONTROLLING AS TO THE NUMBER OF INHABITANTS IN THE STATE OR ANY PART THEREOF FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE READJUSTMENT OR ALTERATION OF SENATE AND ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS NEXT OCCURRING.

2. SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF STATE AND FEDERAL LAW, THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS AND PRINCIPLES SHALL BE APPLIED IN ESTABLISHING A PLAN FOR SUCH DISTRICTS:

(A) ALL CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS SHALL BE AS NEARLY EQUAL IN POPULATION AS IS PRACTICABLE.

(B) EACH DISTRICT SHALL CONSIST OF CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY; NO DISTRICT SHALL CONSIST OF PARTS ENTIRELY SEPARATED BY THE TERRITORY OF ANOTHER DISTRICT OF THE SAME BODY, WHETHER SUCH TERRITORY BE LAND OR WATER, POPULATED OR UNPOPULATED. A POPULATED CENSUS BLOCK SHALL NOT BE DIVIDED BY A DISTRICT BOUNDARY, UNLESS IT CAN BE DETERMINED THAT THE POPULATED PART OF SUCH BLOCK IS WITHIN A SINGLE DISTRICT.

(C) SENATE, ASSEMBLY, OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS SHALL NOT BE ESTABLISHED THAT ARE INTENDED TO OR RESULT IN A DENIAL OR ABRIDGEMENT OF MINORITY VOTING RIGHTS INCLUDING THE OPPORTUNITY OF MINORITY VOTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, AND TO ELECT THE CANDIDATES OF THEIR CHOICE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MINORITY POPULATIONS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO ELECT THE CANDIDATES OF THEIR CHOICE WITHOUT COMPRISING A MAJORITY OF THE DISTRICT.

(D) SENATE, ASSEMBLY, OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS SHALL NOT BE DRAWN WITH AN INTENT TO FAVOR OR OPPOSE ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ANY INCUMBENT FEDERAL OR STATE LEGISLATOR, OR ANY PREVIOUS OR PRESUMED CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE IN THE REDISTRICTING PLAN DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSION.

(E) SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPHS (A), (B), (C) AND (D) OF THIS SUBDIVISION AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF STATE AND FEDERAL LAW, THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES SHALL BE FOLLOWED IN THE CREATION OF SENATE, ASSEMBLY, AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS. A PRINCIPLE WITH A LOWER NUMBER SHALL HAVE PRECEDENCE OVER A PRINCIPLE WITH A HIGHER NUMBER.

(I) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MOST AND LEAST POPULOUS SENATE DISTRICTS SHALL NOT EXCEED OR BE LOWER THAN THE MEAN POPULATION OF ALL SENATE DISTRICTS BY MORE THAN ONE PERCENT, AND THE MOST AND LEAST POPULOUS ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS SHALL NOT EXCEED OR BE LOWER THAN THE MEAN POPULATION OF ALL ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS BY MORE THAN ONE PERCENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE COMMISSION ADVANTAGE ANY REGION OF THE STATE OVER ANY OTHER BY CREATING MULTIPLE DISTRICTS THEREIN EXCEEDING, OR LOWER THAN, THE MEAN POPULATION BY MORE THAN ONE PERCENT EXCEPT AS MAY BE MANDATED BY THE NEW YORK CONSTITUTION OR FEDERAL LAW.

(II) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, A SENATE, ASSEMBLY, OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SHALL UNITE COMMUNITIES DEFINED BY ACTUAL SHARED INTERESTS, TAKING ACCOUNT OF GEOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND OTHER FACTORS THAT INDICATE COMMONALITY OF INTEREST, AND DISTRICTS SHALL BE FORMED SO AS TO PROMOTE THE ORDERLY AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS.

(III) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, COUNTIES SHALL NOT BE DIVIDED IN THE FORMATION OF DISTRICTS, EXCEPT TO CREATE DISTRICTS WHOLLY WITHIN A COUNTY. TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, IF ANY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT OR ANY SENATE DISTRICT INCLUDES THE TERRITORY OF TWO COUNTIES, THEN NO OTHER ASSEMBLY DISTRICT OR SENATE DISTRICT SHALL INCLUDE TERRITORY OF BOTH OF THE SAME TWO COUNTIES.

(IV) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, COUNTY SUBDIVISIONS SHALL NOT BE DIVIDED IN THE FORMATION OF DISTRICTS, EXCEPT TO CREATE DISTRICTS WHOLLY WITHIN A COUNTY SUBDIVISION. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, A COUNTY SUBDIVISION SHALL BE A CITY, EXCEPT THE CITY OF NEW YORK, A TOWN, OR AN INDIAN RESERVATION WHOSE TERRITORY IS EXCLUSIVE OF THE TERRITORY OF ANY CITY OR TOWN. COUNTY SUBDIVISIONS WITH LARGER POPULATIONS SHALL BE DIVIDED IN PREFERENCE TO THE DIVISION OF THOSE WITH SMALLER POPULATIONS.

(V) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, INCORPORATED VILLAGES SHALL NOT BE DIVIDED IN THE FORMATION OF DISTRICTS.

3. (A) DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE REDISTRICTING PLAN, THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT NOT LESS THAN ONE PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSALS FOR THE REDISTRICTING OF CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING (I) CITIES: ALBANY, BUFFALO, SYRACUSE, ROCHESTER, AND WHITE PLAINS; (II) COUNTIES: BRONX, KINGS, NEW YORK, QUEENS AND RICHMOND; AND (III) REGIONS: LONG ISLAND, NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN TIER. PUBLIC NOTICE OF ALL SUCH HEARINGS SHALL BE WIDELY PUBLISHED IN AVAILABLE MEDIA INCLUDING THE INTERNET BY THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION IN ADVANCE IN ANY EVENT, NO LESS THAN THIRTY DAYS BEFORE EVERY HEARING THROUGH ALL AVAILABLE MEANS. TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, ALL SUCH HEARINGS AND THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL BE TELEVISED OR WEBCAST. THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL REPORT THE FINDINGS OF ALL SUCH HEARINGS TO THE LEGISLATURE UPON SUBMISSION OF THE REDISTRICTING PLAN PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION FOUR OF THIS SECTION.

(B) AT LEAST THIRTY DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING AND IN ANY EVENT NO LATER THAN MARCH FIFTEENTH OF THE YEAR ENDING WITH A ONE, EXCEPT THAT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REDISTRICTING PLANS EFFECTIVE FOR TWO THOUSAND TWELVE THIS DATE SHALL BE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER FIFTEENTH, TWO THOUSAND ELEVEN, THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL POST ON ITS WEBSITE (I) ITS DRAFT REDISTRICTING PLANS; (II) ALL DATA AND OTHER INFORMATION IN SUCH FORM AS TO ALLOW AND FACILITATE THE USE OF SUCH DATA AND INFORMATION BY THE PUBLIC TO REVIEW, ANALYZE, AND COMMENT UPON SUCH PLANS, AND TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE REDISTRICTING PLANS OR SPECIFIC CHANGES TO THE COMMISSION'S PLANS FOR PRESENTATION TO THE COMMISSION AT THE PUBLIC HEARING; AND (III) A STANDARDIZED SCORECARD INDICATING COMPLIANCE WITH EACH OF THE REQUIREMENTS, AND SETTING FORTH EACH REDISTRICTING PLAN'S SCORE ON EACH OF THE PRINCIPLES, SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING THE PLAN'S PROTECTION OF MINORITY VOTERS' RIGHTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS AND TO ELECT CANDIDATES OF THEIR CHOICE AND ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN THE PLAN'S FEATURES AND COMPLIANCE WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS AND PRINCIPLES.

4. (A) ON OR BEFORE THE FIFTEENTH OF MAY IN EACH YEAR ENDING WITH A ONE OR WITHIN SIXTY DAYS OF RECEIVING THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS FOR THE STATE, WHICHEVER IS LATER, THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE LEGISLATURE AND DISSEMINATE TO THE PUBLIC A REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR ALL CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS, ALONG WITH THE LEGISLATION NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT SUCH PLAN EXCEPT THAT FOR THE REDISTRICTING PLANS EFFECTIVE FOR TWO THOUSAND TWELVE SUCH PLAN SHALL BE SUBMITTED AND DISSEMINATED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER FIFTEENTH, TWO

THOUSAND ELEVEN. UPON RECEIPT OF SUCH PLAN, THE IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION THEREFOR SHALL BE INTRODUCED IN BOTH HOUSES OF THE LEGISLATURE WITHIN FIVE DAYS.

(B) THE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE VOTED UPON BY BOTH SUCH HOUSES OF THE LEGISLATURE WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION REPORTS THE FINDINGS OF ITS PUBLIC HEARING TO THE LEGISLATURE. IF APPROVED, THE LEGISLATURE SHALL FORWARD SUCH LEGISLATION TO THE GOVERNOR WITHIN FIVE DAYS.

5. IF (A) EITHER HOUSE SHALL FAIL TO APPROVE THE LEGISLATION SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION FOUR OF THIS SECTION WITHIN TWENTY-ONE DAYS OF ITS SUBMISSION, OR (B) THE GOVERNOR SHALL VETO SUCH LEGISLATION AND THE LEGISLATURE SHALL FAIL TO OVERRIDE SUCH VETO WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS OF SUCH VETO, THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL HOLD AN OPEN HEARING WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS OF SAID FAILURE TO PASS THE LEGISLATION AS IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION OR FAILURE TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO AS IN PARAGRAPH (B) OF THIS SUBDIVISION AT WHICH THE SPEAKER AND MINORITY LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY AND THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT AND MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, OR EACH OF THEIR DESIGNEES SHALL TESTIFY AS TO THE REASONS THAT THE LEGISLATION DID NOT BECOME LAW AND ANY OBJECTIONS SUCH LEGISLATIVE LEADERS MAY HAVE TO SUCH LEGISLATION, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL ALSO BE INVITED TO TESTIFY. WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS OF SUCH HEARING, THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE LEGISLATURE A SECOND REDISTRICTING PLAN AND THE NECESSARY IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR SUCH PLAN. UPON RECEIPT OF SUCH SECOND PLAN, THE IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION THEREFOR SHALL BE INTRODUCED IN BOTH HOUSES OF THE LEGISLATURE WITHIN FIVE DAYS. SUCH LEGISLATION SHALL BE VOTED UPON BY BOTH SUCH HOUSES WITHIN TWENTY-ONE DAYS, BUT NOT SOONER THAN SEVEN DAYS, AFTER ITS INTRODUCTION. IF APPROVED, THE LEGISLATURE SHALL FORWARD SUCH LEGISLATION TO THE GOVERNOR WITHIN FIVE DAYS.

6. IF (A) EITHER HOUSE SHALL FAIL TO APPROVE THE LEGISLATION SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION FIVE OF THIS SECTION WITHIN TWENTY-ONE DAYS OF ITS SUBMISSION, OR (B) THE GOVERNOR SHALL VETO SUCH LEGISLATION AND THE LEGISLATURE FAILS TO OVERRIDE SUCH VETO THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL HOLD AN OPEN HEARING WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS OF SAID FAILURE TO PASS THE LEGISLATION AS IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION OR FAILURE TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO AS IN PARAGRAPH (B) OF THIS SUBDIVISION AT WHICH THE SPEAKER AND MINORITY LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY AND THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT AND MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, OR EACH OF THEIR DESIGNEES SHALL TESTIFY AS TO THE REASONS THAT THE LEGISLATION DID NOT BECOME LAW ANY OBJECTIONS SUCH LEGISLATIVE LEADERS MAY HAVE TO SUCH LEGISLATION, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL ALSO BE INVITED TO TESTIFY. WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS OF SUCH HEARING, THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE LEGISLATURE A THIRD REDISTRICTING PLAN AND THE NECESSARY IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR SUCH PLAN. UPON RECEIPT OF SUCH THIRD PLAN, THE IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION SHALL BE INTRODUCED IN BOTH HOUSES OF THE LEGISLATURE WITHIN FIVE DAYS. SUCH LEGISLATION SHALL BE VOTED UPON BY BOTH SUCH HOUSES WITHIN TWENTY-ONE DAYS, BUT NOT SOONER THAN SEVEN DAYS, AFTER ITS INTRODUCTION. IF APPROVED, THE LEGISLATURE SHALL FORWARD SUCH LEGISLATION TO THE GOVERNOR WITHIN FIVE DAYS.

7. ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR A REDISTRICTING PLAN SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISIONS FOUR, FIVE AND SIX OF THIS SECTION SHALL COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION AND SHALL NOT AFFECT MORE THAN TWO PERCENT OF THE POPULATION OF ANY DISTRICT.

S 99. APPLICATION OF ARTICLE. 1. THE PROCESS FOR REDISTRICTING OF CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED BY THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE THE EXCLUSIVE MEANS BY WHICH SUCH REDISTRICTING SHALL BE COMPLETED IN THIS STATE EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT A COURT IS REQUIRED TO ORDER THE ADOPTION OF, OR CHANGES TO, A REDISTRICTING PLAN AS A REMEDY FOR A VIOLATION OF LAW. EVERY REDISTRICTING OF CONGRESSIONAL OR STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS PERFORMED IN VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE VOID. IN ANY PROCEEDING RELATING TO REDISTRICTING OF CONGRESSIONAL OR STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS, THE COURT SHALL IMPLEMENT THE PLAN THAT MOST FAITHFULLY SERVES THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION NINETY-EIGHT OF THIS ARTICLE.

2. A REDISTRICTING STATUTE SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL A SUBSEQUENT REDISTRICTING STATUTE, BASED UPON THE SUCCEEDING DECENNIAL FEDERAL CENSUS, TAKES EFFECT, UNLESS MODIFIED PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER.

S 8. Terms occurring in laws, contracts and other documents. Except as otherwise provided in this act, whenever the legislative task force on demographic research and reapportionment is referred to or designated in any law, contract, or other document, such reference or designation shall be deemed to refer to the independent redistricting commission created by this act.

S 9. This act shall take effect immediately.