

Section-By-Section Summary of S.1614-B

The bill creates an independent redistricting commission and sets standards for the drawing of new district lines. Below is a section-by-section summary of the bill's provisions. The first three sections deal with technical changes to existing law. The fourth section of the bill creates a new Article 6-A to the legislative law. Below is a summary of that Article's provisions.

Step 1 – A “nominating committee” is established.

The Apportionment Nominations Committee will be **made up of eight members**, with the Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Senate Minority Leader, and the Assembly Minority Leader each choosing two.

Its members cannot be politically affiliated.

No member shall:

- Hold or have held within the previous two years an elected government office or any other partisan appointed governmental or political party position;
- Be employed or have been employed within the previous two years in any other position by the US Congress, the State Legislature, or the Executive Chamber;
- Be or have been within the previous two years a registered lobbyist in NY; or
- Be a spouse of or related to any member of the US Congress, the State Legislature, or the Executive Chamber.

The committee then chooses member of a “nominations pool” and its membership must be diverse. From this “pool” the members of the Commission will be appointed.

The Committee will establish, based on majority vote, a list of forty eligible persons for the “Nominations Pool.”

The Nominations Pool shall represent the diversity of the state with regard to race, ethnicity, and gender; will include persons from each NY region (Long Island, New York City, Hudson Valley, Northern, Central, Southern Tier, and Western); and *will include fifteen enrolled Democrats, fifteen enrolled Republicans, and ten persons not enrolled in either party.*

Nominees shall not fall under any of the above listed categories of political affiliation.

Step 2 – A redistricting commission is established (called the “Apportionment Commission”).

The Apportionment Commission shall assist the legislature in the reapportionment of Congressional, Senate, and Assembly districts based on the ensuing Federal Census.

The Commission will be **made up of eleven members**, chosen from the “nominations pool” with two appointees from each of the following: The Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Senate Minority Leader, and the Assembly Minority Leader; *the three remaining Commission members will be appointed by the eight initially appointed members.*

No more than four members shall be enrolled in the same political party.

Step 3 – The Commission begins its work.

The Apportionment Commission shall:

- Have all the powers of a legislative committee (hire and fire staff; hold public hearings; etc.);
 - Meet within or outside New York State;
 - Prepare necessary descriptions of geographic units of New York State and prepare maps of cities, towns, and counties for describing Congressional, Senate, and Assembly districts; and
 - Make all information on the members of the Apportionment Commission and all rules and regulations used to determine the competitiveness of proposed districts available to the public in print form and electronically, on the internet.
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Step 4 – The Commission then drafts maps for legislative review.

The Commission shall prepare apportionment plans in a manner that:

- Ensures fair and effective representation of racial and language minority groups;
- Are of substantial equality of population with other Congressional, Senate, and Assembly districts (*No deviation [for Senate and Assembly districts] shall exceed one percent of the average population of all Senate and Assembly districts*);
- To the extent practicable, keep communities together and respect municipal boundaries;
- Keep districts compact and contiguous;
- Are drawn without the intent to favor or oppose any political party or any incumbent federal or state legislator.

During the preparation of its plan, the Apportionment Commission shall have at least **eleven public hearings** throughout the state.

Step 5 – The process of approval.

The bill sets clear deadlines for legislative actions, see next page.