

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 20

Short Title: Fair Maps Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Harrison, Morey, Hawkins, and Prather (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

January 30, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE FOR AN
3 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING PROCESS, TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH
4 CAROLINA CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, AND TO MAKE
5 CONFORMING CHANGES TO THE GENERAL STATUTES.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7
8 **PART I. INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING PROCESS**

9 **SECTION 1.(a)** Section 3 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution reads as
10 rewritten:

11 **"Sec. 3. Senate districts; apportionment of Senators.**

12 The Senators shall be elected from districts. ~~The General Assembly, at the first regular session~~
13 ~~convening after the return of every decennial census of population taken by order of Congress,~~
14 ~~shall revise the senate districts and the apportionment of Senators among those districts, subject~~
15 ~~to the following requirements: Assembly shall establish an independent process to revise the~~
16 ~~senate districts and the apportionment of Senators among those districts pursuant to Section 25~~
17 ~~of this Article.~~

18 (1) ~~Each Senator shall represent, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, the~~
19 ~~number of inhabitants that each Senator represents being determined for this purpose by dividing~~
20 ~~the population of the district that he represents by the number of Senators apportioned to that~~
21 ~~district;~~

22 (2) ~~Each senate district shall at all times consist of contiguous territory;~~

23 (3) ~~No county shall be divided in the formation of a senate district;~~

24 (4) ~~When established, the senate districts and the apportionment of Senators shall remain~~
25 ~~unaltered until the return of another decennial census of population taken by order of Congress."~~

26 **SECTION 1.(b)** Section 5 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution reads as
27 rewritten:

28 **"Sec. 5. Representative districts; apportionment of Representatives.**

29 The Representatives shall be elected from districts. ~~The General Assembly, at the first regular~~
30 ~~session convening after the return of every decennial census of population taken by order of~~
31 ~~Congress, shall revise the representative districts and the apportionment of Representatives~~
32 ~~among those districts, subject to the following requirements: Assembly shall establish an~~
33 ~~independent process to revise the representative districts and the apportionment of~~
34 ~~Representatives among those districts pursuant to Section 25 of this Article.~~



1 (1) ~~Each Representative shall represent, as nearly as may be, an equal number of~~
 2 ~~inhabitants, the number of inhabitants that each Representative represents being determined for~~
 3 ~~this purpose by dividing the population of the district that he represents by the number of~~
 4 ~~Representatives apportioned to that district;~~

5 (2) ~~Each representative district shall at all times consist of contiguous territory;~~

6 (3) ~~No county shall be divided in the formation of a representative district;~~

7 (4) ~~When established, the representative districts and the apportionment of~~
 8 ~~Representatives shall remain unaltered until the return of another decennial census of population~~
 9 ~~taken by order of Congress."~~

10 **SECTION 1.(c)** Article II of the North Carolina Constitution is amended by adding
 11 a new section to read:

12 **"Sec. 25. Redistricting.**

13 The General Assembly shall establish by law an independent process to revise electoral
 14 districts for Congress and the General Assembly after the return of every decennial census of
 15 population taken by order of Congress. The process shall meet at least all of the following
 16 requirements:

17 (1) Neither the General Assembly nor the Governor shall have any role in revising
 18 electoral districts for the General Assembly or the House of Representatives of the United States
 19 Congress.

20 (2) Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives of the General Assembly
 21 and the House of Representatives of the United States Congress shall represent, as nearly as may
 22 be, an equal number of inhabitants.

23 (3) Each electoral district shall at all times consist of contiguous territory.

24 (4) When established, the electoral districts for the Senate and House of Representatives
 25 of the General Assembly shall remain unaltered until the return of another decennial census of
 26 population taken by order of Congress.

27 (5) Electoral districts adopted pursuant to the process shall have the force and effect of
 28 acts of the General Assembly."

29 **SECTION 1.(d)** Subsection (5) of Section 22 of Article II of the North Carolina
 30 Constitution reads as rewritten:

31 ~~"(5) Other exceptions. Appointments to office. Every bill:~~

32 (a) ~~In bill in~~ which the General Assembly makes an appointment or appointments
 33 to public office and which contains no other ~~matter;~~

34 (b) ~~Revising the senate districts and the apportionment of Senators among those~~
 35 ~~districts and containing no other matter;~~

36 (c) ~~Revising the representative districts and the apportionment of Representatives~~
 37 ~~among those districts and containing no other matter; or~~

38 (d) ~~Revising the districts for the election of members of the House of~~
 39 ~~Representatives of the Congress of the United States and the apportionment~~
 40 ~~of Representatives among those districts and containing no other matter,~~
 41 matter shall be read three times in each house before it becomes law and shall
 42 be signed by the presiding officers of both houses."

43 **SECTION 1.(e)** The amendments set out in subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this
 44 section shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the general election in November
 45 2026, which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State.
 46 Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General
 47 Statutes. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

48 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

49 A constitutional amendment providing for an independent redistricting process for
 50 electoral districts for Congress and the General Assembly. The General Assembly would
 51 establish the process but have no role in the revising of districts."

1 (14) Public office. – Elective State, local, or federal office.

2 (15) Relative. – An individual who is related to the person in question as father,
3 mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece,
4 husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, father-in-law, mother-in-law,
5 son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather,
6 stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or
7 half-sister.

8 **"§ 120-4.55. North Carolina Citizens Redistricting Commission.**

9 (a) Establishment. – There is established the North Carolina Citizens Redistricting
10 Commission in accordance with Section 25 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution to
11 prepare preliminary, proposed, and alternative plans and to adopt final plans for the purpose of
12 nominating and electing members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the General
13 Assembly and the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

14 (b) Eligibility. – A resident of North Carolina is eligible to apply for membership on the
15 Commission if that person meets all of the following requirements:

16 (1) Has been a registered voter in North Carolina with the same party affiliation,
17 or lack thereof, for at least four years prior to commencement of service on
18 the Commission. This requirement does not apply to persons under the age of
19 25.

20 (2) Has not contributed during one election cycle cumulatively more than two
21 thousand dollars (\$2,000) to any candidate for public office.

22 (3) Does not hold public office.

23 (4) Is not any of the following:

24 a. A relative of (i) a current member of the General Assembly, (ii) a
25 current member of the North Carolina Council of State, or (iii) a
26 covered person, as defined in G.S. 138A-3(21).

27 b. A political appointee of the General Assembly.

28 c. A staff member or legal counsel to the General Assembly.

29 d. An official of a political party or a consultant or legal counsel to a
30 political party in the United States.

31 e. A candidate for public office.

32 (5) Has never done any of the following:

33 a. Been elected to serve in any of the following:

34 1. The General Assembly or Congress at the time of or for any
35 period of time during the eight years preceding the date of his
36 or her application.

37 2. Any other public office at the time of or for any period of time
38 during the four years preceding the date of his or her
39 application.

40 b. Held a political appointment.

41 c. Served as an elected or appointed officer of a political party, body, or
42 committee at any level of government in the United States.

43 d. Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party
44 or body or of the campaign or campaign committee of a candidate for
45 public office in the United States.

46 e. Been convicted of any of the following crimes against a governmental
47 body of the United States or a crime with a direct connection to the
48 crimes:

49 1. Espionage.

50 2. Terrorism.

51 3. Treason.

- 1 4. Sabotage.
- 2 5. Sedition.
- 3 6. Insurrection.
- 4 (6) Is not a legislative staffer, lobbyist, or legislative liaison.
- 5 (7) Has not been employed by Congress within 10 years of applying for
- 6 membership on the Commission.
- 7 (c) Membership Application; Evaluations. – Any citizen of North Carolina may apply to
- 8 the State Auditor to be a member of the Commission, according to the following process:
- 9 (1) The State Auditor shall ensure that applications are available for at least six
- 10 months beginning in each year ending in nine. The State Auditor shall work
- 11 with the State Ethics Commission to publicize the application process,
- 12 including advertising the application period, commission qualifications, and
- 13 selection process in at least the following ways:
- 14 a. In the following:
- 15 1. For at least one month, the 10 media outlets in the State with
- 16 the highest circulation.
- 17 2. The main website for all State agencies.
- 18 3. Appropriate local news broadcasts.
- 19 4. Media outlets that serve minority communities.
- 20 b. By distributing paper applications to at least the following:
- 21 1. At least one percent (1%) of all registered voters in North
- 22 Carolina. Recipients of paper applications shall be selected
- 23 randomly but in no event shall more than thirty-three percent
- 24 (33%) of the recipients be affiliated or not affiliated with a
- 25 particular party.
- 26 2. Any registered voter in North Carolina who submits a request
- 27 for an application.
- 28 c. To tribal nations located in North Carolina. The State Auditor shall
- 29 encourage indigenous persons to apply to be a member of the
- 30 Commission and may coordinate for that purpose with the Division of
- 31 Indian Affairs of the North Carolina Department of Administration,
- 32 the North Carolina State Commission of Indian Affairs, and any
- 33 State-recognized Indian tribe.
- 34 (2) As part of a person's application, that person shall (i) disclose all relevant
- 35 relationships and positions and (ii) submit to the State Auditor an attestation
- 36 that the person is eligible to serve as a member of the Commission pursuant
- 37 to subsection (b) of this section.
- 38 (3) The State Auditor shall evaluate applications to ensure they meet the
- 39 requirements of this section and any other requirements of State law. The State
- 40 Auditor shall submit all eligible applications to the State Ethics Commission.
- 41 The State Ethics Commission shall review the eligible applications and submit
- 42 a diverse group of up to 60 applications to the General Assembly, as follows:
- 43 a. Applications submitted to the General Assembly shall reflect the
- 44 State's diverse races, ethnicities, nationalities, sexual orientations,
- 45 socioeconomic statuses, and geography.
- 46 b. The State Ethics Commission shall submit no more than 20
- 47 applications from persons registered in each of the following ways, as
- 48 reflected by the latest registration statistics published by the State
- 49 Board of Elections:
- 50 1. As affiliated with the political party with the highest number
- 51 of registered affiliates.

1 and every 10 years thereafter, the Legislative Services Officer shall adjust the monthly stipend
2 amount, as necessary, to ensure that the value of the stipend remains equivalent to the value
3 provided in the previous decade. The Legislative Services Officer shall base this adjustment on
4 the change in the Employment Cost Index (ECI) reported by the United States Bureau of Labor
5 Statistics or an equivalent measure of inflation.

6 (j) Other Expenses. – Members of the Commission may receive travel and subsistence,
7 as follows:

8 (1) Members who are officials or employees of a State agency or unit of local
9 government, in accordance with G.S. 138-6.

10 (2) All other members at the rate established in G.S. 138-5.

11 **"§ 120-4.60. Staff.**

12 (a) The Commission shall be administratively housed in the Legislative Services Office
13 of the General Assembly.

14 (b) The Commission may exercise its prescribed powers independently of the General
15 Assembly and the Legislative Services Officer. In order to pay expenses incidental to
16 implementing its purposes, the Commission may enter into contracts, own property, and accept
17 funds, grants, and gifts from academic and nonprofit entities that have never contributed to
18 political parties, persons holding public office, or candidates for public office.

19 (c) The Legislative Services Officer shall provide general administrative support to the
20 Commission, including purchasing, payroll, and similar administrative services.

21 (d) The Commission shall retain independent staff under contract, including an executive
22 secretary and any additional necessary supporting staff. As a whole, the political affiliations of
23 staff members, or lack thereof, shall be divided approximately into thirds among the two political
24 parties with the highest number of affiliates and among persons unaffiliated with a political party.
25 A person is ineligible to serve as a staff member to the Commission if that person would be
26 ineligible to serve as a member of the Commission pursuant to G.S. 120-4.55(b). Staff shall be
27 selected as follows:

28 (1) If there are at least three members appointed to the Commission from each
29 sub-sub-subdivision of G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b., staff shall be selected by a vote
30 of at least nine members composed of at least three members appointed to the
31 Commission from each sub-sub-subdivision of G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b.

32 (2) If there are not at least three members appointed to the Commission from each
33 sub-sub-subdivision of G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b., staff shall be selected by a vote
34 of all of the following:

35 a. At least three members from each sub-sub-subdivision of
36 G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b. with more than three members appointed to the
37 Commission.

38 b. A unanimous vote from each sub-sub-subdivision of
39 G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b. with three or fewer members appointed to the
40 Commission.

41 **"§ 120-4.65. Open meetings and public records.**

42 The Commission shall be subject to the Public Records Act, Chapter 132 of the General
43 Statutes, and the Open Meetings Law, Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, except
44 to the extent those enactments conflict with the below requirements:

45 (1) Members of the Commission and staff shall not discuss the business of the
46 Commission outside public meetings.

47 (2) If a member of the Commission violates subdivision (1) of this section, he or
48 she shall place in the public records of the Commission (i) any violating
49 written communication and (ii) a written description of any violating oral
50 communication. The written description of an oral communication must
51 include the name of the parties to the communication, the date and

1 approximate time of the communication, and a description of the nature and
2 substance of the communication.

- 3 (3) The Commission shall provide at least 14 days' notice prior to any meeting in
4 which votes will be taken.

5 **"§ 120-4.70. Redistricting criteria.**

6 All plans shall meet the following goals, in order of priority:

- 7 (1) Each identified representative shall represent, as nearly as may be, an equal
8 number of inhabitants.
- 9 (2) Compliance with the North Carolina Constitution, State law, the Constitution
10 of the United States, including the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth
11 Amendment, and federal law, to ensure that everyone, including members of
12 minority groups, have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their
13 choice. A plan shall not diminish or dilute the ability of a member of a
14 minority from electing a candidate of his or her choice, whether alone or in
15 coalition with others.
- 16 (3) In accordance with subdivisions (1) and (2) of this section, the population for
17 a legislative district shall be within five percent (5%) of the ideal population
18 for that district. Congressional districts shall each have a population that is as
19 nearly equal as practicable to the ideal population but in all cases within
20 one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the ideal population for that district.
- 21 (4) All districts shall be contiguous. Areas that meet only at the points of
22 adjoining corners are not contiguous.
- 23 (5) Minimizing the number of split communities of interest with the following
24 communities of interest prioritized above all others and in the following order:
25 a. Municipalities and census designated places.
26 b. Precincts.
27 c. Counties.
- 28 (6) The Commission shall not consider electoral results or political considerations
29 in the preparation of a preliminary, proposed, or alternative plan. In order to
30 ensure that each citizen of the State has substantially equal voting power on
31 the basis of party affiliation, the Commission shall evaluate every proposed
32 and alternative plan after the plan is created to avoid inadvertently diminishing
33 or diluting a voter's opportunity to aggregate with likeminded voters to elect
34 a governing majority based on party affiliation. Before adopting a final plan,
35 the Commission shall revise any plan that it deems to have violated this
36 subdivision to the minimum extent necessary to remedy that violation.
- 37 (7) Districts shall not favor or disfavor an incumbent, and the Commission shall
38 not consider member residency in the preparation of a plan.
- 39 (8) To the extent practicable, all districts shall be compact. Districts should not
40 bypass nearby communities for more distant communities.

41 **"§ 120-4.75. Adoption of redistricting plans by the Commission.**

42 (a) Duties. – The Commission shall adopt preliminary, proposed, alternative, and final
43 plans, as follows:

- 44 (1) If there are at least three members appointed to the Commission from each
45 sub-sub-subdivision of G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b., plans shall be adopted by a vote
46 of at least nine members composed of at least three members appointed to the
47 Commission from each sub-sub-subdivision of G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b.
- 48 (2) If there are not at least three members appointed to the Commission from each
49 sub-sub-subdivision of G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b., plans shall be adopted by a vote
50 of all of the following:

1 a. At least three members from each sub-sub-subdivision of
2 G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b. with more than three members appointed to the
3 Commission.

4 b. A unanimous vote of the members from each sub-sub-subdivision of
5 G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b. with three or fewer members appointed to the
6 Commission.

7 (b) Special Master. – At the beginning of the redistricting cycle, the State Ethics
8 Commission shall submit to the Commission a list of names of persons with an expertise in
9 redistricting who are qualified to serve as a special master. A person is ineligible to serve as a
10 special master if that person would be ineligible to serve as a member of the Commission
11 pursuant to G.S. 120-4.55(b). In the event a plan cannot be adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of
12 this section, the Commission shall appoint a special master from the list of names provided by
13 the State Ethics Commission, and the special master shall draw a plan and submit the plan, along
14 with the rationale for the plan, to the Commission, which shall adopt that plan. The special master
15 shall be appointed as follows:

16 (1) If there are at least three members appointed to the Commission from each
17 sub-sub-subdivision of G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b., the special master shall be
18 appointed by a vote of at least nine members composed of at least three
19 members appointed to the Commission from each sub-sub-subdivision of
20 G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b.

21 (2) If there are not at least three members appointed to the Commission from each
22 sub-sub-subdivision of G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b., the special master shall be
23 appointed by a vote of all of the following:

24 a. At least three members from each sub-sub-subdivision of
25 G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b. with more than three members appointed to the
26 Commission.

27 b. A unanimous vote of the members from each sub-sub-subdivision of
28 G.S. 120-4.55(c)(3)b. with three or fewer members appointed to the
29 Commission.

30 (c) Time Line. – The Commission shall adopt all plans no later than October 1 of the year
31 following each federal census. Prior to the adoption of a plan, the Commission shall adhere to
32 the following maximum time line:

33 (1) Within 30 days of receipt of data from the Census Bureau, the Commission
34 shall hold at least 10 initial public hearings pursuant to G.S. 120-4.80.

35 (2) Within 50 days of receipt of data from the Census Bureau, the Commission
36 shall release to the public preliminary plans for revising the congressional and
37 legislative districts.

38 (3) Within 70 days of receipt of data from the Census Bureau, the Commission
39 shall hold at least an additional 10 public hearings pursuant to G.S. 120-4.80.

40 (4) Within 90 days of receipt of data from the Census Bureau, the Commission
41 shall release to the public all of the following:

42 a. Proposed plans for revising the congressional and legislative districts.

43 b. Alternative plans for revising the congressional and legislative
44 districts.

45 c. A summary of public input provided pursuant to G.S. 120-4.80.

46 (5) Within 110 days of receipt of data from the Census Bureau, the Commission
47 shall vote to adopt final plans from its proposed or alternative plans for
48 revising the congressional and legislative districts.

49 (6) If the Commission fails to adopt any plan pursuant to subdivision (5) of this
50 subsection, the Commission shall adhere to the following extended maximum
51 time line:

- 1 a. Within 130 days of receipt of data from the Census Bureau, the
2 Commission shall select from the list of names provided by the State
3 Ethics Commission pursuant to subsection (b) of this section a special
4 master to complete the plan or plans. The Commission shall provide
5 the special master with its proposed and alternative plans and all
6 supporting data.
- 7 b. Within 150 days of receipt of data from the Census Bureau, the special
8 master shall prepare and release a plan and a rationale for any changes
9 from the plans released by the Commission. The special master shall
10 present the plan to the Commission.
- 11 c. Within 170 days of receipt of data from the Census Bureau, the
12 Commission shall hold at least 10 public hearings pursuant to
13 G.S. 120-4.80 on the plan or plans presented by the special master.
- 14 d. Within 180 days of receipt of data from the Census Bureau, the
15 Commission shall adopt as a final plan the plan presented by the
16 special master.
- 17 (7) Notwithstanding subdivisions (1) through (6) of this subsection, the
18 Commission may extend the maximum number of days between any event
19 required in this subsection by as many as seven days, up to a total of 40 days
20 over the course of a year, for good cause.

21 **"§ 120-4.80. Public input.**

22 (a) Public Hearings. – For each redistricting cycle, the Commission shall engage in a
23 minimum of 25 public hearings. At least one public hearing shall occur in each of the
24 metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas of the State. Of the total public hearings, at least
25 10 hearings shall occur before a preliminary plan is released to the public, and at least 10 hearings
26 shall occur after a preliminary plan is released to the public but before a proposed or alternative
27 plan is released to the public.

28 (b) Public Input. – To the extent possible, the Commission shall facilitate the ability of
29 members of the public to provide substantive comments on any plan released to the public. To
30 achieve that goal, the Commission shall provide members of the public with all of the following:

- 31 (1) Sufficient time to review any plan released to the public.
- 32 (2) The opportunity to communicate comments, questions, and recommendations
33 on any plan released to the public, at a minimum, in person, online, and
34 through the mail. The Commission shall reserve time at the end of every
35 meeting for in-person and virtual public comment.
- 36 (3) Access to the same demographic data that is used by the Commission in a
37 machine-readable form.
- 38 (4) Access to mapping software and census data in a minimum of 30 public library
39 facilities in the State within 20 days of receipt of that data from the United
40 States Bureau of the Census.
- 41 (5) A public, written response to every substantive comment or recommendation
42 regarding a specific component of a plan released to the public. The response
43 shall address the viability of any recommendation and indicate whether it was
44 or will be incorporated in any other plan. A single response may be provided
45 for one or more comments or recommendations on the same topic.
- 46 (6) At the conclusion of the redistricting process, the Commission shall publish a
47 written evaluation of each final plan, including at least the following
48 information:
- 49 a. The impact of the plans on the ability of minority groups, including
50 racial minorities, to elect candidates of their choice.

- b. The degree to which the plans preserve or divide communities of interest.
- c. The rationale for changes in the plans from the prior districts.
- d. The impact of the plans on the metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas of the State.
- e. A summary of the public input received by the Commission on the plans.
- f. An explanation of how the plans comply with the redistricting criteria provided in G.S. 120-4.70.

(7) A website with all of the following information:

- a. Background information on the redistricting process available in at least English and Spanish on the purpose of redistricting and its impact on all communities. The Commission shall provide information in other languages if at least 50,000 people petition the Commission to have a particular language included.
- b. Livestreams and recordings of all public meetings in audio, video, or both formats and minutes from those meetings.
- c. Meeting announcements.
- d. A searchable database of feedback, including public comments, and plans discussed by the Commission. This information shall be made available as soon as practicable after it is generated.
- e. Plans discussed by the Commission and the data used to create those plans.

"§ 120-4.85. Local redistricting.

The General Assembly may by law assign to the Commission the duty to prepare district plans for any county, city, town, special district, and other governmental subdivision, if the governing board of the unit or a court of appropriate jurisdiction so requests."

SECTION 1.(h) Notwithstanding G.S. 120-4.55(e), as enacted by this act, for any redistricting that may occur prior to the return of the 2030 federal census, the term of office for members of the North Carolina Citizens Redistricting Commission shall begin on January 1, 2027, and conclude on June 30, 2030.

PART II. CONFORMING CHANGES

SECTION 2.(a) G.S. 120-2.3 reads as rewritten:

"§ 120-2.3. Contents of judgments invalidating apportionment or redistricting acts.

Every order or judgment declaring unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, in whole or in part and for any reason, any ~~act of the General Assembly plan~~ that apportions or redistricts State legislative or congressional districts shall find with specificity all facts supporting that declaration, shall state separately and with specificity the court's conclusions of law on that declaration, and shall, with specific reference to those findings of fact and conclusions of law, identify every defect found by the court, both as to the plan as a whole and as to individual districts."

SECTION 2.(b) G.S. 120-2.4 reads as rewritten:

"§ 120-2.4. Opportunity for General Assembly to remedy defects.

(a) ~~If the General Assembly enacts a plan apportioning or redistricting State legislative or congressional districts, districts becomes effective, in no event may a court impose its own substitute plan unless the court first gives the General Assembly North Carolina Citizens Redistricting Commission a period of time to remedy any defects identified by the court in its findings of fact and conclusions of law. That period of time shall not be less than two weeks, provided, however, that if the General Assembly is scheduled to convene legislative session~~

1 ~~within 45 days of the date of the court order that period of time shall not be less than two weeks~~
2 ~~from the convening of that legislative session.~~weeks.

3 (a1) In the event the ~~General Assembly~~ North Carolina Citizens Redistricting Commission
4 does not act to remedy any identified defects to its plan within that period of time, the court may
5 impose an interim districting plan for use in the next general election only, but that interim
6 districting plan may differ from the previous districting plan ~~enacted by the General Assembly~~
7 only to the extent necessary to remedy any defects identified by the court.

8 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or authority of the State Board of
9 Elections under Chapter 163 of the General Statutes, the State Board of Elections shall have no
10 authority to alter, amend, correct, impose, or substitute any plan apportioning or redistricting
11 State legislative or congressional districts other than a plan imposed by a court under this section
12 or a plan ~~enacted by the General Assembly.~~adopted by the North Carolina Citizens Redistricting
13 Commission."

14 15 **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

16 **SECTION 3.(a)** If the constitutional amendments proposed by subsections (a), (b),
17 (c), and (d) of Section 1 of this act are approved by the qualified voters as provided in subsections
18 (e) and (f) of Section 1 of this act, the following shall become effective January 1, 2027:

19 (1) Subsections (g) and (h) of Section 1 of this act.

20 (2) Part II of this act.

21 **SECTION 3.(b)** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
22 law.