
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1017

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION REGARDING REDISTRICTING.

SUMMARY

Generally, this bill requires the secretary of the state to review how municipalities implement the state's Plan of Redistricting (i.e., redistricting plan) following the decennial U.S. Census, and for municipalities to correct any errors.

Specifically, once registrars in each municipality finish implementing the redistricting plan, the secretary must review their actions to ensure that the plan has been properly implemented and interpreted. If there is an implementation error, the secretary must notify the applicable registrars of voters and require them to correct it. The registrars must immediately correct the error and certify in writing to the secretary when it is done. (The bill does not establish deadlines by which registrars must finish implementing the plans or by which the secretary must review them.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Redistricting Authority

The Connecticut Constitution establishes the state's redistricting process. Generally, the process requires (1) a bipartisan legislative committee to prepare the Plan of Redistricting for state Senate, state House, and Congressional districts, and (2) the General Assembly to approve it by September 15 of the year following the decennial census.

If the General Assembly does not timely approve the plan, a nine-member Reapportionment Commission, consisting of legislator-designated members and one state elector, is formed to do the job and

has until November 30 to do so (i.e., approve by a vote of at least five members). If the commission fails to meet the November 30 deadline, the Connecticut Supreme Court has the authority to compel the commission to complete its task or the court can draw the district boundaries itself by the following February 15. In these cases, the Plan of Redistricting has the full force of law when the commission or the court, as applicable, submits it to the secretary of the state and the secretary publishes it (Conn. Const. Art. III., § 6).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (04/05/2021)