

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 504

BY REPRESENTATIVES FRANKLIN AND JAMES

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

REAPPORTIONMENT: Creates and provides for the Reapportionment Transparency Act

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 15 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of  
3 R.S. 18:1961 through 1963, relative to redistricting and reapportionment; to create  
4 and provide for the Reapportionment Transparency Act; to provide for a study and  
5 advisory commission; to provide for certain required procedures and actions relative  
6 to the redistricting and reapportionment activities by the legislature; and to provide  
7 for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Chapter 15 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
10 comprised of R.S. 18:1961 through 1963, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 CHAPTER 15. REAPPORTIONMENT TRANSPARENCY

12 §1961. Short title

13 The provisions of this Chapter shall be known and may be cited as the  
14 "Reapportionment Transparency Act".

15 §1962. Study and advisory commission

16 A. In each year ending in zero, the legislature shall establish a study and  
17 advisory commission to study redistricting and make recommendations to the  
18 legislature prior to January first of each year ending in one. These recommendations  
19 shall be based on the following:

1           (1) Past redistricting proceedings including, at minimum, those from the two  
2           most recent redistricting cycles.

3           (2) Best redistricting practices established in other states.

4           (3) Redistricting tools and resources that have become available since the  
5           most recently completed redistricting cycle.

6           B. The study and advisory commission shall consist of the following:

7           (1)(a) One member of the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs  
8           affiliated with the Democratic Party.

9           (b) One member of the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs  
10          affiliated with the Republican Party.

11          (c) One person appointed at-large by the Committee on House and  
12          Governmental Affairs.

13          (2)(a) One member of the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs  
14          affiliated with the Democratic Party.

15          (b) One member of the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs  
16          affiliated with the Republican Party.

17          (c) One person appointed at-large by the Committee on Senate and  
18          Governmental Affairs.

19          (3) A representative of the office of the governor selected by the governor.

20          (4) A representative of the Department of State selected by the secretary of  
21          state.

22          (5) One academic or legal professional with relevant knowledge and  
23          experience selected by the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of  
24          the Senate, and the governor acting together.

25          §1963. Redistricting and Reapportionment hearings

26          A. The legislature shall do all of the following:

27          (1) Conduct at least ten public hearings on redistricting prior to the  
28          legislative session during which redistricting plans for the election of members to  
29          congress, the legislature, the Public Service Commission, the supreme court, or the

1        State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education are to be enacted in accordance  
2        with the most recent federal decennial census.

3                (2) Give notice of each public hearing at least seven days prior to each public  
4        hearing.

5                (3) Conduct outreach activities regarding each public hearing in each state  
6        legislative district.

7                B.(1) At each public hearing required by Paragraph (A)(1) of this Section,  
8        the legislature shall:

9                (a) Educate the public about the reapportionment and redistricting process  
10        and gather public input on the legislative process and the specific map-drawing  
11        process.

12                (b) Broadcast audio and video of the entire hearing live via the internet.

13                (2) The legislature shall record each hearing required by Paragraph (A)(1)  
14        of this Section, maintain audio and video of each such hearing for a minimum of  
15        three years, and make the recorded hearings available to the public for viewing  
16        through a link clearly identified on the legislative website.

17                C.(1) The consideration of a redistricting bill on final passage shall not occur  
18        until no fewer than five legislative days have intervened after the bill has been  
19        reported from a committee, including a conference committee.

20                (2)(a) After being reported by a committee and prior to consideration of a  
21        redistricting bill on final passage, the appropriate legislative committee shall hold a  
22        public hearing to provide information to the public about the process and factors  
23        considered that resulted in the redistricting plan contained in the bill pending final  
24        passage.

25                (b) The legislature shall broadcast audio and video of the entire hearing that  
26        is required by Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph live via the internet and shall  
27        record, maintain, and make available the recording of the hearing in the same manner  
28        as required in Paragraph (B)(2) of this Section.

- 1                   (3) For the purposes of this Subsection, "redistricting bill" shall mean a  
 2                   legislative instrument containing a redistricting plan for the election of members to  
 3                   congress, the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Public Service Commission,  
 4                   the supreme court, or the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 504 Original

2019 Regular Session

Franklin

**Abstract:** Creates the Reapportionment Transparency Act, including provisions for a study and advisory commission, required public hearings and broadcasts thereof regarding the redistricting process, and 5-day delays prior to the final passage of a redistricting bill during which an additional public hearing is held regarding the content of the bill and the factors involved.

Proposed law provides for the Reapportionment Transparency Act as follows:

- (1) In each year ending in zero, requires the legislature to establish a study and advisory commission to study redistricting and make recommendations to the legislature prior to Jan. 1st of each year ending in one. Requires the recommendations to be based on past redistricting proceedings, best redistricting practices established in other states, and redistricting tools and resources that have become available since the most recently completed redistricting cycle.
- (2) Provides that the study and advisory commission shall consist of a member of the House and Governmental Affairs Committee affiliated with the Democratic Party; a member of the House and Governmental Affairs Committee affiliated with the Republican Party; a person appointed at-large by the House and Governmental Affairs Committee; a member of the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee affiliated with the Democratic Party; a member of the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee affiliated with the Republican Party; a person appointed at-large by the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee; a representative of the office of the governor selected by the governor; a representative of the Dept. of State selected by the secretary of state; and an academic or legal professional with relevant knowledge and experience selected by the speaker of the House, the president of the Senate, and the governor acting together.
- (3) Requires the legislature to conduct at least 10 public hearings on redistricting prior to the legislative session during which specified redistricting plans are to be enacted; give the public at least seven days notice prior to each public hearing; and conduct outreach activities regarding each public hearing in each state legislative district.
- (4) Requires the legislature at each public hearing to educate the public about the reapportionment and redistricting process, gather public input on the legislative process and the specific map-drawing process, and broadcast audio and video of the hearing live via the internet.
- (5) Requires the legislature to record each hearing, maintain audio and video of each hearing for a minimum of three years, and make the recorded hearings available to the public for viewing through a link clearly identified on the legislative website.

- (6) Prohibits the consideration of a redistricting bill on final passage until no fewer than five legislative days have intervened after the bill has been reported from a committee, including a conference committee. Defines "redistricting bill".
- (7) After being reported by committee and prior to consideration of a redistricting bill on final passage, requires the appropriate legislative committee to hold a public hearing to provide information about the process and factors considered that resulted in the redistricting plan contained in the bill and requires the hearing to be broadcast, recorded, and maintained in the same manner as the other required hearings.

(Adds R.S. 18:1961-1963)