

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 163

To require the use of independent nonpartisan commissions to carry out congressional redistricting and to require States to hold open primaries for elections for Federal office.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. FITZPATRICK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the use of independent nonpartisan commissions to carry out congressional redistricting and to require States to hold open primaries for elections for Federal office.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Citizen Legislature
5 Anti-Corruption Reform of Elections Act” or the
6 “CLEAN Elections Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING USE OF INDEPENDENT NONPARTISAN**
2 **COMMISSIONS TO CARRY OUT REDIS-**
3 **TRICTING.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENT.—

5 (1) CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING.—Each
6 State shall conduct Congressional redistricting (be-
7 ginning with the redistricting carried out pursuant
8 to the decennial census conducted during 2020) in
9 accordance with a redistricting plan developed by a
10 nonpartisan independent redistricting commission.

11 (2) REDISTRICTING FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE
12 DISTRICTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
13 law, a State may not use any funds provided by the
14 Federal Government directly for election administra-
15 tion purposes unless the State certifies to the Elec-
16 tion Assistance Commission that the State conducts
17 redistricting for State legislative districts in the
18 State (beginning with the first such redistricting
19 carried out after the date of the enactment of this
20 Act) in accordance with a redistricting plan devel-
21 oped by a nonpartisan independent redistricting
22 commission.

23 (b) NONPARTISAN INDEPENDENT STATUS.—For
24 purposes of this section, a commission shall be considered
25 to be a nonpartisan independent commission if—

1 (1) the number of its members who are affili-
2 ated with the political party with the largest percent-
3 age of the registered voters in the State who are af-
4 filiated with a political party (as determined with re-
5 spect to the most recent Statewide election for Fed-
6 eral office held in the State for which such informa-
7 tion is available) is equal to the number of its mem-
8 bers who are affiliated with the political party with
9 the second largest percentage of the registered vot-
10 ers in the State who are affiliated with a political
11 party (as so determined); and

12 (2) none of its members is an elected public of-
13 ficial.

14 (c) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term
15 “State” means each of the several States.

16 **SEC. 3. REQUIRING OPEN PRIMARIES.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—

18 (1) ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.—Each
19 State shall hold open primaries for elections for Fed-
20 eral office held in the State.

21 (2) ELECTIONS FOR STATE AND LOCAL OF-
22 FICE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
23 a State may not use any funds provided by the Fed-
24 eral Government directly for election administration
25 purposes unless the State certifies to the Election

1 Assistance Commission that the State holds open
2 primaries for elections for State and local office.

3 (b) OPEN PRIMARIES DESCRIBED.—For purposes of
4 this section, a State holds open primaries for an election
5 for an office if any individual who is registered to vote
6 in a general election for such office in the State may cast
7 a ballot in any primary election (including a primary elec-
8 tion held for the selection of delegates to a national nomi-
9 nating convention of a political party and a primary elec-
10 tion held for the expression of a preference for the nomina-
11 tion of individuals for election to the office of President)
12 held by any political party to nominate candidates for elec-
13 tion for that office, including a convention or caucus of
14 a political party which has authority to nominate a can-
15 didate.

16 (c) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term
17 “State” has the meaning given such term in section 901
18 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21141).

19 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall apply
20 with respect to elections held after the date of the enact-
21 ment of this Act.

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