

HB 973 -- NONPARTISAN STATE DEMOGRAPHER

SPONSOR: Trent

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

Currently, the Missouri Constitution requires a nonpartisan state demographer to draw redistricting maps on the basis of specified formulas and criteria. This bill requires the demographer to establish a "Redistricting Public Comment Portal," to accept comments, maps, or other communications from the general public or interested parties. Submissions to the portal must disclose whether the entity making the submission was responsible for its content and whether or not the submission was funded by contributors. If a submission was funded, then the identity of the contributors shall be disclosed.

This bill is the same as SB 213 (2019).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is a good government proposal that requires the nonpartisan demographer to disclose communications about redistricting to the general public in readily available format.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Trent.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.