

DISTRICTS

Section 3.04. Legislative Districts.

The State shall be divided by law into districts for the election of members of the Senate. Each senate district shall be subdivided into three districts for the election of members of the House of Delegates. The population represented by each senator shall be substantially equal, as shall the population represented by each delegate. Each district shall consist of adjoining territory and be compact in form. Due regard shall be given to natural boundaries and the boundaries of political subdivisions. Boundaries of districts shall be redrawn according to these standards prior to the general election in 1982 and in every tenth year thereafter.

Section 3.05. Redistricting Commission.

Six months before the first day of the regular session of the General Assembly in the year in which redistricting is to be effective, the presiding officer and the minority leader of each house shall each appoint two persons to a commission on legislative redistricting. The governor shall appoint an additional member who shall serve as chairman of the commission. Any vacancy on the commission shall be filled by the appointing authority. The commission shall adopt a redistricting plan only by a majority vote of all its members. No member of the commission shall hold a popularly elected office in the State.

Section 3.06. Legislative Redistricting Procedure.

The commission on legislative redistricting shall submit a plan to the governor, who shall transmit it to the General Assembly by the first day of the regular session in the year in which redistricting is to be effective. If any other plan has not been prescribed by law within seventy days after the transmission of the commission plan to the General Assembly, then the commission plan shall become law. The Court of Appeals shall have original jurisdiction, upon petition of any qualified voter, to review the new redistricting law and the commission plan if it has not