

# Revised

## Consolidated Fiscal Note

2025-2026 Legislative Session

### HF550 - 0 - Redistricting Commission Constitutional Amendment

Chief Author: **Paul Torkelson**  
 Committee: **Elections Finance And Government Operations**  
 Date Completed: **3/4/2025 2:16:11 PM**  
 Lead Agency: **Secretary of State**  
 Other Agencies:  
     Administration Dept      Administrative Hearings  
     Campaign Finance Board    Legislature  
     Supreme Court

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology	X	
Local Fiscal Impact	X	

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.  
 Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Campaign Finance Board		-	-	-	-	-
General Fund		-	-	-	-	-
State Total						
General Fund		-	-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)		Biennium			Biennium	
		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Campaign Finance Board		-	-	-	-	-
General Fund		-	-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-	-

#### Lead LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

This fiscal note was revised to reflect the Legislature's need to account for additional costs for counsel representation.

**LBO Signature:** Chloe Burns      **Date:** 3/4/2025 2:16:11 PM  
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# Revised

## State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

\*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

<b>State Cost (Savings) = 1-2</b>		<b>Biennium</b>			<b>Biennium</b>	
Dollars in Thousands		<b>FY2025</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>	<b>FY2028</b>	<b>FY2029</b>
Campaign Finance Board		-	-	-	-	-
General Fund		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-
<b>1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*</b>						
Campaign Finance Board		-	-	-	-	-
General Fund		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-
<b>2 - Revenues, Transfers In*</b>						
Campaign Finance Board		-	-	-	-	-
General Fund		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-

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## Fiscal Note

2025-2026 Legislative Session

### HF550 - 0 - Redistricting Commission Constitutional Amendment

Chief Author: **Paul Torkelson**  
Committee: **Elections Finance And Government Operations**  
Date Completed: **3/4/2025 2:16:11 PM**  
Agency: **Secretary of State**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology	X	
Local Fiscal Impact	X	

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.  
Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Dollars in Thousands					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-

#### LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

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## State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

\*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-
<b>1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*</b>						
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-
<b>2 - Revenues, Transfers In*</b>						
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-

## Bill Description

This bill proposes that Article IV, section 3 of the constitution be amended to state that all senate districts must consist of two whole representative districts, labeled A and B. The bill further proposes that the constitution be amended to add an Article XV, which would create a bipartisan redistricting commission responsible for adopting boundaries of congressional legislative districts. The commission would adopt a redistricting plan that would become effective beginning at the state general election the second year following the federal decennial census. Lines 1.9 through 3.11 are the title of the bill and the amendment's language. Lines 3.12 through 3.19 describe how the question will be placed on the ballot.

Line 3.20 through Line 6.5 further proposes conforming changes to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 2 and to add a new section to chapter 2 creating districting principles the bipartisan redistricting commission must follow. In addition, lines 6.6 through 9.15 set forth certain powers and obligations of the commission.

Lines 9.16 through 9.20 require the Office of the Secretary of State to provide copies of the relevant portion to a filed redistricting plan to each county auditor and to make copies of the redistricting plan available for purchase.

## Assumptions

There will be minor programming costs for the Office of the Secretary of State related to the constitutional amendment and more substantial programming, tabulating, printing, and publishing costs to county auditors in preparing the ballots to include the constitutional amendment. Pursuant to section 204B.29, subd.1, there must be more ballots printed than voted for the office in the last election; either ten percent more than the number expected to be cast, or 100 ballots for every 85 voters who voted for the same office in the last election. Because 2026 is a midterm election year, and in 2022 there were 2,525,873 persons who voted, a ten percent increase would require 2,778,461 ballots to be printed statewide.

The Office of the Secretary of State already provides copies of the redistricting plans to counties and makes such plans available for purchase, so there would be no new expense incurred there.

## Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Estimated Secretary of State programming costs for reporting votes cast for the proposed amendment, canvassing the results, and preparing example ballots:

- One hour of programmer time @ \$100.00/hour: \$100
- One hour of elections administrator time @ \$50/hour: \$50
- **Total Cost: \$150 (FY26)**

The Secretary of State is able to absorb the costs identified as part of ongoing operational activities associated with the

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work of the office. These activities are not anticipated to displace any other work of the office.

## **Long-Term Fiscal Considerations**

None.

## **Local Fiscal Impact**

There are costs to local government, including for adding the amendment question to the ballot card, programming tabulating machines and counting votes cast, and printing and publishing notices of the constitutional amendment.

The bulk of the costs are for adding the question to 2,778,461 optical scan ballots. It is estimated that there is a five cent per ballot cost for that function: 2,778,461 ballots @ \$.05/ballot/constitutional question = \$138,923.05

If several constitutional amendments are put on the ballot, local election officials may need to provide voters with a second ballot. The number of constitutional amendments that would require any specific jurisdiction to use a second ballot will vary depending upon the number of other races on the ballot. According to the vendor printing most of the ballots in the state, the average cost of printing a second ballot is 29 cents. If all counties had to print second ballots, this would mean printing an additional 2,778,461 ballots for an added cost of approximately \$805,753.69.

## **References/Sources**

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## Fiscal Note

2025-2026 Legislative Session

### HF550 - 0 - Redistricting Commission Constitutional Amendment

Chief Author: **Paul Torkelson**  
Committee: **Elections Finance And Government Operations**  
Date Completed: **3/4/2025 2:16:11 PM**  
Agency: **Administration Dept**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.  
Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Dollars in Thousands					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-

#### LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

**LBO Signature:** Chloe Burns    **Date:** 2/26/2025 7:56:41 AM  
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## State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

\*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
	Biennial Total			-		-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
	Biennial Total			-		-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
	Biennial Total			-		-

## Bill Description

The bill proposes a state constitutional amendment to establish a Bipartisan Redistricting Commission.

Subd 9 directs the secretary of state, with the cooperation of the commissioner of administration, to make copies of the plan file, maps, and tables available to the public for the cost of publication.

## Assumptions

It is assumed that the Office of Secretary of State would publish and make available the materials required in Section 4 Subd. 9 in similar manner as the office currently does with its other publications. In that case, the Department of Administration would not have any costs.

## Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

## Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

## Local Fiscal Impact

## References/Sources

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## Fiscal Note

2025-2026 Legislative Session

### HF550 - 0 - Redistricting Commission Constitutional Amendment

Chief Author: **Paul Torkelson**  
Committee: **Elections Finance And Government Operations**  
Date Completed: **3/4/2025 2:16:11 PM**  
Agency: **Administrative Hearings**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.  
Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Dollars in Thousands					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-

#### LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

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## State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

\*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

<b>State Cost (Savings) = 1-2</b>		<b>Biennium</b>			<b>Biennium</b>	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-
<b>1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*</b>						
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-
<b>2 - Revenues, Transfers In*</b>						
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-

## Bill Description

HF550 proposes a state constitutional amendment to establish a Bipartisan Redistricting Commission (commission) within the legislative department that would adopt boundaries of congressional and legislative districts after each decennial census.

Article 2, Section 4, Subd. 4 states that the commission is subject to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13, Government Data Practices and Chapter 13D, Open Meeting Law.

Article 2, Section 4, Subd. 8 states that if a technical error in a redistricting plan is discovered after the commission has dissolved, the chief administrative law judge may order a correction consistent with the principles of Subd. 8 after notifying the secretary of state, the Legislative Coordinating Commission, and the chief justice of the supreme court. The chief administrative law judge must provide a copy of each correction order to each affected county auditor and municipal clerk.

## Assumptions

The statements below assume that the constitutional amendment were to pass.

It is assumed that the Bipartisan Redistricting Commission will comply with chapter 13, Government Data Practices, and that there would not be a significant increase in data practices complaints filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) because of this bill. Under that assumption, the current complement of administrative law judges employed by OAH is sufficient to preside over any data practices disputes arising from HF550.

It is assumed that OAH and the chief administrative law judge would be able to carry out the duties described in Article 2, Sec. 4, Subd. 8, item (d) in the normal course of business and that any minor costs arising from those duties could be absorbed by OAH.

## Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

## Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

## Local Fiscal Impact

## References/Sources

# Revised

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# Revised

## Fiscal Note

2025-2026 Legislative Session

### HF550 - 0 - Redistricting Commission Constitutional Amendment

Chief Author: **Paul Torkelson**  
Committee: **Elections Finance And Government Operations**  
Date Completed: **3/4/2025 2:16:11 PM**  
Agency: **Campaign Finance Board**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.  
Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Dollars in Thousands					
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

#### LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

**LBO Signature:** Steve McDaniel    **Date:** 2/25/2025 11:17:27 AM  
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# Revised

## State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

\*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

<b>State Cost (Savings) = 1-2</b>		<b>Biennium</b>			<b>Biennium</b>	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-
<b>1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*</b>						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-
<b>2 - Revenues, Transfers In*</b>						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-

## Bill Description

The bill provides a constitutional amendment to place before the voters. If the amendment passes, then the bill establishes the Bipartisan Redistricting Commission. The commission will have eight appointed members. The members will be “public officials” as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subd. 35. Public officials file economic interest statements with the Campaign Finance Board. If the constitutional amendment in the bill passes the members would be appointed and need to file economic interest statements starting in 2030.

## Assumptions

The fiscal impact on the Board for adding eight individuals to the definition of public official is very nominal, and will be absorbed by the agency. When appointed, a new public official is identified to the Board, which starts a sixty-day period in which the new public official must file an original economic interest statement with the Board. In addition, there is a requirement to file the economic interest statement annually in January.

The identifiable costs to the Board include staff time needed to data entry of the appoint information into the Board's database, and the cost of mailing notifications to the new officials of the need to file the economic interest statement. Most public officials file the economic interest statement online, so processing the statement is an automated process with no additional cost to the Board. The staff time needed to initially process the eight appointments and mail out the notification of the need to file is nominal, no more than two hours. The mailing cost is also nominal, eight first class letters. There are currently 3,115 public officials that file economic interest statements with the Board, another eight will not be a significant increase in the workload of the staff member that manages the economic interest statement program. The Board's operating costs for this bill are likely to be less than \$200.

## Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

## Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

## Local Fiscal Impact

## References/Sources

# Revised

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# Revised

## Fiscal Note

2025-2026 Legislative Session

### HF550 - 0 - Redistricting Commission Constitutional Amendment

Chief Author: **Paul Torkelson**  
Committee: **Elections Finance And Government Operations**  
Date Completed: **3/4/2025 2:16:11 PM**  
Agency: **Legislature**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.  
Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Dollars in Thousands					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-

#### LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

This fiscal note was revised to reflect the Legislature's need to account for additional costs for counsel representation.

**LBO Signature:** Chloe Burns    **Date:** 3/4/2025 2:12:44 PM  
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# Revised

## State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

\*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-
<b>1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*</b>						
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-
<b>2 - Revenues, Transfers In*</b>						
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-

## Bill Description

Article 1 of the bill proposes constitutional amendments to be presented to the voters during the 2026 general election that would establish a Bipartisan Redistricting Commission, beginning with redistricting following the 2030 census. The article also identifies, in part, the appointment process, the composition of the commission and individuals that would be ineligible to serve.

Article 2, Sections 1 and 5, outlines the statutory provisions of the Bipartisan Redistricting Commission if the constitutional amendment were to pass. Article 2, Sections 3 and 4, establishes the responsibilities and timelines for the work of the commission, identifies redistricting principles and data to be used, and addresses commission technical and administrative support.

## Assumptions

### Constitutional Amendment

1. There is no fiscal cost to the legislature for the inclusion of the proposed constitutional amendment presented to the voters in the 2026 general election. The no cost is reflected in the table of this fiscal note.

*This fiscal note includes a discussion of cost considerations if the constitutional amendment were to pass. This information is provided for informational purposes only since it is unknown if the proposed amendment were to pass, and the timeline of the associated cost considerations are outside the fiscal note timeframe of FY25 FY29 and would begin with the 2030 redistricting cycle and thereafter.*

### Bipartisan Redistricting Commission (BRC)

1. The BRC is composed of eight public members of which two public members are appointed by speaker of the house, two public members are appointed by the house minority, two public members are appointed by the majority leaders of the senate, and two public members are appointed by the minority of the senate. The BRC must adopted boundaries of congressional and legislative districts by December 31 of years following the federal decennial census.
2. Redistricting plans adopted by the BRC are effective beginning the state general election following the federal census.
3. Members must be appointed to the BRC by October 15 of a decennial census year, and the first meeting of the commission must be held by November 15 of that same year. The BRC must be fully seated within 60 days of its first meeting.
4. The BRC expires when both legislative and congressional district plans have been adopted and filled with the secretary of state, but the commission may be reconstituted to make technical corrections or for adoption of a compliant plan if it is determined by an eligible court that the initial plan adopted by BRC did not comply with law. For the purposes of the information cost consideration provided here, it is assumed that the BRC will not be reconstituted once it has expired.

# Revised

5. For the purpose of informational cost considerations, we assume that the first meeting of the BRC will be November 15, 2030. The BRC will be fully appointed at its first meeting. The BRC will adopt redistricting boundaries which will be filled by the secretary of the state on December 31, 2031, at which time the commission will expire.
6. The BRC will hold 16 meetings between November 2030 and September 2031 throughout the state for public input. There will be cost for rental space and technical equipment of \$2,000 for each of the 16 meetings (\$20,000 FY31, \$12,000 FY32). New funds will be needed. The commission will then meet three times between October 2031 and December 2031 to consider and adopt the final plan and report. These meetings will be held on the Capitol complex, streamed to the web, and include the opportunity for remote participants. There will be no associated cost for meeting space rental within the Capitol complex. In total between all the 19 meetings, ten of the meetings will be held during FY31 and nine meetings will be held during FY32.
7. BRC members are eligible for compensation and expenses as provided by section 15.057, subd. 3. The meeting participation costs include the following per public member per meeting expense costs: per diem (\$55/day), \$106 round trip mileage (152 round trip mile average), meals (\$42/day) and lodging for half of the members (\$175/night). New funds will be needed.
8. The BRC will be supported by the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) under its administrative and fiscal services but may employ nonpartisan staff and enter into agreements to carry out its work.
9. The BRC must use the data provided by the LCC GIS as modified by reallocating and excluding persons who are incarcerated.
10. The BRC and LCC GIS office must make restricting information available on their respective websites.
11. The bill allows for the BRC to obtain legal counsel services if needed. If outside legal counsel service are needed, a projected \$56,000 of new funds will be needed.
12. The bill requires the LCC to contract with a consultant to provide operational and logistical support to the BRC by January 1, 2030, for a term concluding December 31, 2031. The consultant may be retained if the BRC was to be reconstituted for a limited duration, although for this note informational purposes, it is assumed that the commission will not be reconstituted. For January 1 to June 30, 2030, which is the last six months of FY30, the consultant will be hired for full-time which equate to a .50 FTE for that fiscal year. For July 1, 2030, to June 2031, which is the full 12 months of FY31, the consultant will be hired for full-time which will equate to a 1.0 FTE that fiscal year. From July 31 to December 2031, which is the first six months of FY32, the consultant will be hired for full-time which will equate to .50 FTE for that fiscal year. New funds will be needed.
13. The bill also requires the LCC to assist the BRC with hiring any other additional staff and securing office and meeting space. For the purposes of this informational cost information, it is assumed that the following additional limited term staff would be hired to support the work of the BRC:
  - a. A 50 percent time technology specialist to assist with website development, designing a portal for public comment, streaming meetings, and ensuring accessibility of information on the website. The technical specialist will be hired July 1, 2030, with a term ending December 31, 2031, and will equate to .50 FTE in FY31 and .25 FTE in FY32.
  - b. A full-time commission assistant to work with the consultant on operational and logistical support. The commission assistant will be hired to start July 1, 2030, with a term ending Dec 31, 2031, and will equate to 1.0 FTE in FY31 and .50 FTE in FY32.
  - c. A full-time GIS specialist to assist with map development and technical review of plans. The GIS specialist be hired to start July 1, 2030, with a term ending Dec 31, 2031, and will equate to 1.0 FTE in FY31 and .50 FTE in FY32.
14. Costs for all new staff will include salary, FICA cost, employer contribution for health insurance, and 100 percent employer contribution for MN paid leave law for the length of their employment but no employer pension contribution since limited term employees cannot participate in MSRS. The employer contribution for the MN paid leave law is assumed for this information cost consideration to be 100 percent although that may depend on the decision of the legislative leadership. New funds will be needed.
15. Existing State office space will be used but there will be costs for workstation build-out and computer equipment in FY30 for the new staff starting July 1, 2030. New funds will be needed. Office space and equipment will not be provided for the consultant.
16. Operational costs associated with the new staff include throughout the length of their employment, in part, supplies, specialized software, and professional development/training and travel costs. New funds will be needed.
17. Foreign language translation and accessibility translation services will be provided as requested by the public for all meetings. Public notices will be posted in all languages as required by State or Federal law. Cost will be incurred, and new funds will be needed.
18. The LCC fiscal services office will provide financial and human resources support to the commission which equates to .10 FTE in FY30, .15 FTE in FY31 and .15 FTE in FY32. The executive director will assist with the hiring of staff and provide supportive guidance to the commission. This will equate to .05 FTE in FY30, .10 FTE in FY31 and .05 FTE in FY32. For this fiscal note we assume existing LCC staff will be utilized, and cost may be absorbed, although that will depend on the priorities of the legislature and staff time required for competing projects. If too many competing projects



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are required of the LCC, then additional funds will be needed than is what advised in this fiscal note for informational purposes.

19. The bill provides an approach in the event the commission fails to adopt a plan or is reconstituted due to court order. This would involve additional meetings of the commission and there would be additional meeting costs. These additional costs are not included in the informational cost considerations for the work of the BRC provided in this fiscal note.

## **Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**

Presenting the question to the voters during the 2024 election does not have a fiscal impact on the legislature.

*The table below illustrates cost considerations if the constitutional amendment were to pass. This information is provided for informational purposes only since it is unknown if the proposed amendment were to pass, and the timeline of the associated cost considerations are outside the fiscal note timeframe of FY25 through FY29 and would begin with the 2030 redistricting cycle and thereafter. The informational cost information is not included in the table of this fiscal note.*

Member Meeting Participation Cost for Commission			
Cost Category	FY30	FY31	FY32
Public Member Mtg Participation Cost	0	23,272	20,945
Total Member Mtg Participation Cost (rounded)	0	23,000	21,000
Consultant and Staffing Cost			
Cost Category	FY30	FY31	FY32
Outside Legal Counsel Services	0	56,000	0
Consultant Cost (.50 FTE FY30, 1.0 FTE FY31, .50 FTE FY32)	80,000	160,000	80,000
Technology Specialist (.50 FTE FY31, .25 FTE FY32)	0	60,600	30,293
Commission Assistant (1.0 FTE FY31, .50 FTE FY32)	0	111,630	55,785
GIS Specialist (1.0 FY31, .50 FY32)	0	164,277	82,109
LCC Executive Director, Existing Staff, Cost Absorbed (.10 FTE FY30, .15 FTE FY31, .15 FTE FY32)	26,157	39,236	39,236
LCC Fiscal/Admin/HR Supprt, Existing Staff, Cost Absorbed (.05 FY30, .10 FY31, .05 FY32)	7,272	14,544	7,272
Total Consultant and Staff Cost (rounded)	113,000	606,000	295,000
Less Total Staff Cost Absorbed (rounded)	(33,000)	(54,000)	(47,000)
Net Staff Cost (rounded)	80,000	552,000	248,000

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Office Set Up and Operational Cost	FY30	FY31	FY32
Office Set Up Cost (Build-Out, Equipment)	33,400	0	0
Software, Print Cost, Supplies, Staff Travel	2,800	10,298	8,049
Community Meeting Room Facility Rental Cost	0	20,000	12,000
Public Notice Publications	0	2,000	1,800
Translation & Accommodations	0	6,000	5,400
Total Office Set Up and Operational Cost (rounded)	36,000	38,000	27,000
Total Cost			
Cost Category	FY30	FY31	FY32
Total Member Mtg Participation Cost (rounded)	0	23,000	21,000
Total Consultant and Staff Cost (rounded)	113,000	606,000	295,000
Total Office Set Up and Operational Cost (rounded)	36,000	38,000	27,000
Total Cost (rounded)	149,000	667,000	343,000
Less Total Cost Absorbed (rounded)	(33,000)	(54,000)	(47,000)
Net Total Cost (rounded)	116,000	613,000	296,000
	FY30	FY31	FY32
Total New FTEs	0.00	2.50	1.25

## Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

# Revised

Redistricting occurs every 10 years with the costs identified above anticipated to be incurred with each redistricting cycle.

## **Local Fiscal Impact**

N/A

## **References/Sources**

Emily Adriaens, House of Representatives  
Matt Gehring, House of Representatives  
Tom Bottern, Minnesota Senate  
Eric Nauman, Minnesota Senate  
Alexis Stangl, Minnesota Senate  
Chris Cantey, Legislative Coordinating Commission  
Michelle Yurich, Legislative Coordinating Commission

**Agency Contact:** Diane Henry-Wangenstein

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# Revised

## Fiscal Note

2025-2026 Legislative Session

### HF550 - 0 - Redistricting Commission Constitutional Amendment

Chief Author: **Paul Torkelson**  
Committee: **Elections Finance And Government Operations**  
Date Completed: **3/4/2025 2:16:11 PM**  
Agency: **Supreme Court**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.  
Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Dollars in Thousands					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-

#### LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

**LBO Signature:** Susan Nelson **Date:** 2/25/2025 3:50:32 PM  
**Phone:** 651-296-6054 **Email:** susan.nelson@lbo.mn.gov

# Revised

## State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

\*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-
<b>1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*</b>						
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-
<b>2 - Revenues, Transfers In*</b>						
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-

## Bill Description

H.F. No. 550-0 (the "bill") proposes an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, article IV, section 3, to eliminate the power of the legislature to prescribe the bounds of congressional and legislative districts and to require each senate district to have two representative districts, labeled "A" and "B," respectively.

The bill proposes adding article XV to the Minnesota Constitution, which would establish a Bipartisan Redistricting Commission within the legislative department that would be tasked with adopting boundaries of congressional and legislative districts. Current elected or appointed officials and their immediate family members are ineligible to serve on the commission. Article XV outlines the required membership of the commission and the deadline for a redistricting plan to be adopted. The Minnesota Supreme Court shall have exclusive, original jurisdiction in all cases alleging that a redistricting plan adopted by the commission fails to comply with article XV or other applicable law. The supreme court may determine an adopted redistricting plan does not comply with requirements of article XV or applicable law and order the commission to be reconstituted. If, after the commission has been reconstituted, the court finds that a newly adopted redistricting plan does not comply with the requirements of this article, the court may order other appropriate relief, including drawing and ordering new districts under the court's own authority.

The bill amends Minn. Stat. § 2.93, subd. 1 to define "Bipartisan Redistricting Commission." Subdivision 2 is also amended to reflect the Bipartisan Redistricting Commission must use the census population for purposes of drawing congressional, legislative, and all other election districts.

The bill proposes the establishment of new statutes, Minn. Stat. § 2.94 ("Districting Principles"), which identifies the principles and procedures for establishing districts; and Minn. Stat. § 2.95 ("Bipartisan Redistricting Commission"), which establishes the implementation of the Bipartisan Redistricting Commission consistent with article XV of the Minnesota Constitution.

If the constitutional amendments in article 1 are adopted, this section is effective January 1, 2030, and applies to the 2030 redistricting cycle and thereafter.

## Assumptions

The bill identifies the Commission as being subject to chapter 13 and chapter 13D. Under Minn. Stat. § 13D.06, any person who intentionally violates chapter 13D shall be subject to personal liability in the form of a civil penalty. An action to enforce the penalty may be brought by any person in any court of competent jurisdiction where the administrative office of the governing body is located. It is assumed the commission shall comply with chapter 13 (Government Data Practices Act), chapter 13D (Open Meeting Law), and Minn. Stat. § 138.17 (government records administration). Any alleged violations of these provisions are not expected to result in a noticeable increase in case filings in district court, as causes of action existed under these chapters prior to this bill. It is anticipated any additional cases filed because of this bill will not require any additional staff or resources and will be absorbed by the Minnesota Judicial Branch.

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It is assumed that members of the Bipartisan Redistricting Commission will also be subject to Minn. Stat. § 609.43 (“Misconduct of Public Officer or Employee”), which provides for imprisonment of a public officer for not more than 364 days or payment of a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both, if they are found in violation of certain offenses. It is assumed that even if 1/4 of the commission members’ alleged actions result in criminal or civil cases being filed in district court, that it will not require any additional judicial officers or court staff to process these cases due to the consistently low rate of charges being filed under Minn. Stat. § 609.43. For example, since 2022, there have only been 29 charges filed in the entire state (FY22: 16 charges; FY23: 7 charges; FY24: 6 charges; or an average of 10 charges filed statewide per fiscal year).

It is assumed that the Minnesota Supreme Court will review and process applications for writs of mandamus and prohibition under this bill as outlined under Rule 120 of the Minnesota Rules of Appellate Procedure and that it will continue to be considered an “extraordinary remedy used in only extraordinary cases.” *Thermorama, Inc. v. Shiller*, 135 N.W.2d 43, 46 (Minn. 1965). While the supreme court may give priority to ruling on a petition for a writ of mandamus or a writ of prohibition filed pursuant to this bill, it is not anticipated that any resulting potential shift in the court’s calendar to prioritize these writs will cause a fiscal impact.

It is assumed that the number of petitions filed with the Minnesota Supreme Court will be consistent with other states that have implemented similar legislation involving redistricting commissions and result in 1-4 additional case filings per year. Based on information obtained from a Westlaw search, since 2022 the Supreme Court of Wisconsin had six case filings related to redistricting commissions; the Supreme Court of Ohio had one case in 2024, one case in 2023, and six in 2022; the Supreme Court of Alaska had one case in 2023; the Supreme Court of New Jersey had two cases in 2022; the Supreme Court of North Carolina had two cases in 2023; and the Supreme Court of Kansas had two cases in 2022. A similar average increase in case filings with the Minnesota Supreme Court would be absorbed by the Minnesota Judicial Branch.

## **Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**

This bill is not anticipated to have a significant fiscal impact on the Minnesota Judicial Branch, and any potential increase in case filings as a result of this bill will be absorbed.

## **Long-Term Fiscal Considerations**

None

## **Local Fiscal Impact**

## **References/Sources**

### **Agency Contact:**

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**Date:** 2/25/2025 1:38:49 PM

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