

Date of Hearing: June 19, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING

Marc Berman, Chair

SB 139 (Allen) – As Amended June 12, 2019

SENATE VOTE: 29-7

SUBJECT: Independent redistricting commissions.

SUMMARY: Requires a county to establish an independent redistricting commission to adopt the county supervisorial districts after each federal decennial census, as specified. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires a county with more than 250,000 residents on July 1, 2019, and on July 1, of every subsequent year ending in the number nine, to establish either a 9-member or a 12-member independent redistricting commission to adopt the county's supervisorial districts after each federal decennial census, as specified. Requires a county, if a county does not pass an ordinance to establish either a 9-member or a 12-member independent redistricting commission pursuant the provisions of this bill by March 1, 2020, and by March 1 of every subsequent year ending in the number zero, to establish a 12-member independent redistricting commission pursuant to the provisions of this bill.
- 2) Provides that a county with 750,000 residents or less are *not required* to establish an independent redistricting commission pursuant to this bill unless an appropriation for that purpose is made in the annual Budget Act or other statute before July 15, 2020, and before July 15 of every subsequent year ending in the number zero.
- 3) Provides for the purposes of this bill that the latest available estimate of a county's population by the Department of Finance, pursuant to existing law, on July 1 of each year ending in the number 9 is determinative.
- 4) Provides that the provisions of this bill do not apply to a county that has adopted a ballot measure establishing an independent redistricting commission before January 1, 2019, unless that commission is subsequently repealed or invalidated by a court.
- 5) Provides that the provisions of this bill does not apply to the following:
 - a) A charter city and county.
 - b) The County of Los Angeles, unless the commission established by existing law is repealed or invalidated by a court.
 - c) The County of San Diego, unless the commission established by existing law is repealed or invalidated by a court.
- 6) Defines the following terms for the provisions of this bill:

- a) “Board” to mean the board of supervisors of a county.
- b) “County” to mean either of the following:
 - i) A county that is not required to establish an independent redistricting commission pursuant to provisions of this bill, but which elects to create a commission using the procedures established in this bill.
 - ii) A county that is required to establish an independent redistricting commission pursuant to provisions of this bill, and which elects or is required to use the procedures established in this bill to establish the commission.
- c) “County elections official” to mean a county’s registrar of voters.
- d) “Screening panel” to mean a county’s civil grand jury pursuant to existing law.

7) 12-Member Redistricting Commission Requirements:

- a) Requires the members to be appointed on or before March 1, 2021, and on or before March 1 in each year ending in the number one thereafter.
- b) Requires the political party preferences of the commission members, as shown on the members’ most recent affidavits of registration, to be as proportional as possible to the total number of voters who are registered with each political party in that county or who decline to state or do not indicate a political party preference, based on voter registration at the most recent statewide election.
- c) Prohibits a majority of commissioners from being registered with the same political party.
- d) Provides that if a commission based on proportional representation would result in commissioners who are registered with the same political party occupying seven or more seats on the commission, each of those seats in excess of six seats shall instead be occupied by an individual who declines to state or does not indicate a political party preference.

8) 9-Member Redistricting Commission Requirements:

- a) Requires commissioners to be appointed on or before March 1, 2021, and on or before March 1 in each year ending in number 1 thereafter.
- b) Requires the commission to consist of nine members, three of whom are registered with the largest political party in the county based on registration, three of whom are registered with the second-largest political party in the county based on registration, and three who are not registered with either of the two largest political parties in the county based on registration.

- c) Requires county political party registration to be based on voter registration at the most recent statewide election.

9) Member Qualifications for a 12-Member and a 9-Member Commission:

- a) Requires a commission member to engage in conduct that is impartial and that reinforces public confidence in the integrity of the redistricting process.
- b) Provides that the commission selection process is designed to produce a commission that is independent from the influence of the board and reasonably representative of the county's diversity.
- c) Requires each member of a commission established pursuant to this bill to meet the following requirements:
 - i) Be at least 18 years old and a resident of the local jurisdiction;
 - ii) Abide by various restrictions under current law for an individual, or a family member of the individual, preceding service, during service, and following service on an independent redistricting commission, as specified, and;
 - iii) Be a voter who has been continuously registered with the same political party preference or with no political party preference either during the five years immediately preceding the date of the member's appointment to the commission or since the member registered to vote for the first time, whichever is shorter.
 - iv) Possess all of the following:
 - (1) The competency to carry out the responsibilities of the commission;
 - (2) The ability to serve with impartiality in a nonpartisan role; and,
 - (3) An appreciation for the diverse demographics and geography of the county.

10) Member Application Process for a 12-Member and a 9-Member Commission:

- a) Requires a county to recruit eligible residents to apply to serve on the commission and requires the county to request the assistance of neighborhood associations, community groups, civic organizations, and civil rights organizations to encourage eligible residents to apply to serve on the commission.
- b) Permits an interested person meeting the qualifications specified above to submit an application to the county to be considered for membership on the commission. Requires the application period to be open for at least two months. Requires a county, if fewer than five people apply from each existing supervisorial district or fewer than 40 people apply in total, to reopen the application period for a minimum of two weeks.
- c) Requires a county elections official to review applications for membership on the commission and eliminate applicants who do not meet the criteria stated above. Permits

a county elections official to rely on an applicant's certification that, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, the applicant meets those criteria.

- d) Requires a county, during the application period, to maintain and periodically update a public list with the name, relevant demographic characteristics, and party affiliation of each qualifying applicant and review any allegations that an applicant on that list is ineligible to serve on the commission. Requires a county, if those allegations are substantiated, to remove the applicant from consideration.

11) Selection Process and Screening Panels for a 12-Member and a 9-Member Commission:

- a) Requires members of a commission, after the conclusion of the application process, to be selected pursuant to the following process:
 - i) Requires a county to organize the eligible applications and transmit them, as well as any written public comment received concerning any applicant or the screening process, to the screening panel. Requires a county to also provide the screening panel with relevant demographic and party registration figures for the county. Requires a county to provide additional administrative support to the screening panel upon request.
 - ii) Requires a screening panel, notwithstanding existing law, at one or more noticed public hearings, and after receiving public comment, to review the applications. Permits a screening panel to ask questions of an applicant at a public meeting or request that the applicant answer written questions. Requires a screening panel to nominate for membership on the commission no fewer than 30 and no more than 40 of the most qualified applicants, based on the criteria specified above. Requires a screening panel to nominate at least three applicants from each supervisorial district.
 - (1) 12-Member Commission: Requires that the political party preferences of the pool of nominees as shown on the nominees' most recent affidavits of registration, to be approximately proportional to the number of voters who are registered with each political party in the county or who decline to state or do not indicate a party preference, based on voter registration at the most recent statewide election.
 - (2) 9-Member Commission: Requires that the political party preferences of the pool of nominees as shown on the nominees' most recent affidavits of registration, to be approximately evenly divided between applicants who are registered with the largest political party in the county, the second largest political party in the county, and neither of the two largest political parties in the county.
 - iii) Requires a county elections official to review the applications of the applicants nominated and remove from consideration any applicant who does not meet the eligibility criteria specified above.
 - (1) 12-Member Commission: Requires a screening panel, if the pool of remaining nominees has fewer than 3 nominees from each supervisorial district or has fewer than 30 nominees in total, to nominate additional applicants so that those conditions are met. Requires a county to then divide the remaining nominees into

five subpools corresponding to each of the five supervisorial districts in the county.

- (2) 9-Member Commission: Requires a screening panel, if the pool of remaining nominees has fewer than 30 applicants, to nominate additional applicants so that the pool has at least 30 applicants. Requires a county to then divide the remaining nominees into five subpools corresponding to each of the five supervisorial districts in the county.
- iv) Requires a county elections official, at a noticed public meeting, to randomly select one nominee from each of the five subpools. Requires those five nominees to be appointed to the commission unless, if those nominees were appointed, it would be impossible to create a commission with members whose political party preferences would comply with the provisions of this bill. Requires a county elections official, in that event, to repeat the random selection as necessary until the composition of the political preferences of the selected nominees would make it possible to create a commission that complies with the provisions of this bill.
 - v) Requires the commissioners selected to review the remaining applicants in the subpools and to appoint additional applicants as follows:
 - (1) 12-Member Commission: To appoint, by majority vote, seven additional applicants to the commission. Requires the seven appointees to be chosen based on the factors described above and to ensure that the commission reflects the county's diversity, including racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity. Prohibits formulas or specific ratios to be applied for this purpose. Requires the commissioners selected to also consider political party preference and select applicants so that the composition of the political party preferences of the members of the commission comply with the provisions of this bill.
 - (2) 9-Member Commission: To appoint, by majority rule, four additional applicants to the commission. Requires the four appointees to be chosen based on the factors described above and to ensure that the commission reflects the county's diversity, including racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity. Prohibits formulas or specific ratios to be applied for this purpose. Requires the commissioners selected to also consider political party preference and select applicants so that the composition of the political party preferences of the members of the commission comply with the provisions of this bill.
 - vi) Permits the commission, by majority vote, to appoint an applicant from the pool of nominees described above to fill a vacancy that may occur on the commission, provided that the appointed applicant is registered with the same political party preference as the departed commissioner.
- b) Prohibits a member of the board, or an agent for a member of the board, from communicating with either the screening panel or a member of the screening panel regarding whom to nominate for consideration on the commission, or with the commissioners selected, except at a public hearing or by submitting a written public comment through a formal process, as specified.

- c) Provides that the term of office of each member of the commission expires upon the appointment of the first member of a successor commission.

12) Quorum Requirements:

- a) 12-Member Commission: Requires seven members of the commission to constitute a quorum. Provides that seven or more affirmative votes of the commission are required to take an official action, except the adoption of a final map requires eight or more affirmative votes.
- b) 9-Member Commission: Requires five members of the commission to constitute a quorum. Provides that five or more affirmative votes of the commission are required to take an official action, except that adoption of a final map requires the affirmative vote of one commissioner who is registered with the largest political party in the county, one commissioner who is registered with the second largest political party in the county, and one commissioner who is not registered with either of the two largest political parties in the county.

13) Public Hearing Requirements for a 12-Member and a 9-Member Commission:

- a) Requires a commission to conduct at least five public hearings, with at least one public hearing held in each supervisorial district, before adopting a final map. Requires a commission to schedule hearings at various times and on various days of the week to accommodate a variety of work schedules and to reach the largest possible audience.
- b) Requires a commission, notwithstanding existing law, to give notice of any public hearing on the county's internet website at least seven days before the hearing.
- c) Requires a commission to publish a draft map on the internet for at least seven days before adopting it.
- d) Requires a commission to provide a live translation of a hearing held in an applicable language if a request for translation is made at least 72 hours before the hearing. Defines "applicable language," for the purposes of this bill, to mean a language in which ballots are required to be provided in the county pursuant to Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- e) Requires a county and a commission to take steps to encourage county residents to participate in the redistricting public review process. Permits these steps to include the following:
 - i) Providing information through media, social media, and public service announcements.
 - ii) Providing information through neighborhood associations, community groups, civic organizations, and civil rights organizations.
 - iii) Posting information on the county's internet website that explains the redistricting process and the procedures for testifying during a hearing or submitting written

testimony directly to the commission.

- f) Requires a board to provide for reasonable funding and staffing of the commission.
- g) Requires a commission, with any final map that the commission adopts, to issue a report that explains the basis on which it made its decisions.

14) Superior Court:

- a) Requires a board, if the commission does not adopt supervisorial district boundaries by the deadline for completing county redistricting, to immediately petition the superior court of the county for an order adopting supervisorial district boundaries. Requires the petition to include a copy of the two complete draft maps that received the most commissioner votes.
- b) Requires a superior court, upon finding that a petition filed is valid, to adopt supervisorial district boundaries and requires them to be used in the county's next regular election. Requires a superior court to consider adopting one of the two draft maps filed with the petition, but permits the superior court to adopt different boundaries that better comply with the criteria established in existing law. Permits a superior court to also order the adjustment of electoral deadlines as necessary to implement the new supervisorial district boundaries in the next regular election.
- c) Permits a superior court to appoint a special master or other experts to assist the court with adopting the supervisorial district boundaries. Requires a county to pay the cost for any special master or expert.
- d) Requires a superior court or the special master to hold one or more public hearings before the superior court adopts the supervisorial district boundaries.
- e) Requires the supervisorial district boundaries adopted by the superior court to be immediately effective in the same manner as if the commission had adopted the boundaries.

15) Permits a local jurisdiction that is partially or wholly located within the County of Los Angeles or the County of San Diego, with the approval of the board of supervisors of the county in which the local jurisdiction is located, to contract with the independent redistricting commission established pursuant to existing law to adopt the local jurisdiction's election district boundaries.

16) Requires each member of a hybrid redistricting commission and an independent redistricting commission to be at least 18 years old and a resident of the local jurisdiction.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Authorizes a county, general law city, school district, community college district, or a special district to establish an independent redistricting commission, an advisory redistricting commission, or a hybrid redistricting commission by resolution, ordinance, or charter amendment, as specified.

- 2) Defines an “independent redistricting commission” to mean a body, other than a legislative body, that is empowered to adopt the district boundaries for a legislative body.
- 3) Defines “hybrid redistricting commission” to mean a body that recommends to a legislative body the new district boundaries in two or more maps for that legislative body, where the legislative body must adopt one of those maps without modification, except as may be required to comply with state or federal law.
- 4) Requires an independent redistricting commission to adopt new boundaries within six months after the final population figures in each federal decennial census have been released, but not later than November 1 of the year following the year in which the census is taken.
- 5) Allows a local jurisdiction to prescribe the manner in which members are appointed to an independent redistricting commission and permits the local jurisdiction to impose additional requirements and restrictions on the commission, members of the commission, or applicants for the commission in excess of those already prescribed.
- 6) Establishes various restrictions for an individual, or a family member of the individual, preceding service, during service, and following service on an independent redistricting commission, as specified.
- 7) Prohibits the composition of an independent redistricting commission from being entirely of members who are registered to vote with the same political party preference.
- 8) Requires a map of proposed boundaries be published and made available to the public for at least seven days prior to being adopted.
- 9) Requires an independent redistricting commission to hold at least three public hearings prior to the hearing at which the new boundaries are adopted, as specified.
- 10) Prohibits an independent redistricting commission from drawing districts that favor or discriminate against an incumbent or political candidate.
- 11) Requires that district boundaries adopted for a legislative body using an independent redistricting commission model not be altered until after the next federal census unless those boundaries have been invalidated by a court.
- 12) Permits specified local jurisdictions that are partially or wholly located within a county that has an existing independent redistricting commission to contract with that county to have the commission adopt the district boundaries for that local jurisdiction if certain conditions are met.
- 13) Requires the County of Los Angeles and the County of San Diego to create independent redistricting commissions to adjust the boundary lines of their respective county’s supervisorial districts, as specified.
- 14) Specifies, pursuant to the California Constitution, that charter counties are subject to state statutes that relate to apportioning population of governing body districts.

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, by requiring counties to establish independent redistricting commissions following each decennial census, this bill creates a state-mandated local program. To the extent the Commission on State Mandates

determines that the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service on local agencies, local agencies could claim reimbursement of those costs (General Fund). The costs are unknown, but potentially in the low millions of dollars every ten years.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose of the Bill:** According to the author:

In 2008, California voters approved Proposition 11, which created the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC), giving it the responsibility to establish district lines for the state Assembly, state Senate, and Board of Equalization. Proposition 20, approved by the voters in 2010, gave the CRC the additional responsibility of establishing lines for California's congressional districts. Responding to local interest in reform, Senator Allen authored SB 1108 in 2016 and SB 1018 in 2018, which authorized all counties, cities, school, community college and special districts to establish independent, hybrid or advisory redistricting commissions. These laws are permissive and jurisdictions can choose whether to adopt redistricting commissions.

Unfortunately gerrymandering has continued at the local level. A 2015 National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) report found that Latinos constitute only 10% of county supervisors in California even though almost 40% of the state's population is Latino. Similarly, although many jurisdictions' residents are politically diverse, there is often near single-party rule in many counties. In many jurisdictions, incumbents have used the local line-drawing process to disenfranchise growing ethnic and language minority communities, reduce the voting power of political minorities, and even draw political opponents out of the district they were planning to run in.

SB 139 requires counties with more than 250,000 residents to establish an independent redistricting commission that will have the full power to draft and adopt district maps, independent of the board of supervisors. SB 139 requires that the commission members be politically independent. Draft maps must be published for seven days before they can be adopted. The commissions must engage the public by holding five public hearings prior to adopting any maps. For the first time, the bill also prohibits partisan gerrymandering in redistricting. Independent redistricting of county supervisorial districts will ensure a more democratic process and will lead to a more accurate reflection of the demographics of the electorate on governing bodies.

- 2) **California Citizens Redistricting Commission.** In the November 2008 statewide general election, California voters approved Proposition 11, which created the CRC, and gave it the responsibility for establishing district lines for Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization. Proposition 11 also modified the criteria to be used when drawing district lines. In the 2010 statewide general election, voters subsequently approved Proposition 20, which gave the CRC the responsibility for establishing lines for California's congressional districts, and made other changes to the procedures and criteria to be used by the CRC. The CRC consists of 14 registered voters, including five Democrats, five Republicans, and four others, all of whom are chosen according to procedures specified in Proposition 11.

- 3) **Local Redistricting and Previous Legislation:** Prior to 2017, state law generally permitted a county or a city to create an advisory redistricting commission (described in state law at the time as a "committee" of residents of the jurisdiction), but did not expressly permit local jurisdictions to create commissions that had the authority to establish district boundaries. Instead, the authority to establish district boundaries for a local jurisdiction generally was held by the governing body of that jurisdiction. While charter cities could establish redistricting commissions that had the authority to establish district boundaries, charter counties did not have that authority in the absence of express statutory authorization.

In 2016, however, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed SB 1108 (Allen), Chapter 784, Statutes of 2016, which permitted a county or a general law city to establish a redistricting commission, subject to certain conditions. Specifically, SB 1108 authorized two different types of commissions: independent commissions and advisory commissions. SB 1108 generally provided cities and counties with the discretion to determine the structure and membership of an advisory or independent redistricting commission, however, it did establish minimum qualifications for commission membership. While SB 1108 imposed few restrictions and requirements on advisory commissions, it did subject members of independent commissions to extensive eligibility requirements and post-service restrictions.

- 4) **County Redistricting Commissions:** As mentioned above, before SB 1108 (Allen) was signed into law, charter counties did not have that authority in the absence of express statutory authorization to establish redistricting commissions. As a result, the Legislature statutorily authorized redistricting commissions in two counties: San Diego and Los Angeles. In 2012, the Legislature passed and Governor signed SB 1331 (Kehoe), Chapter 508, Statutes of 2012, which established a redistricting commission in San Diego County to adjust the boundaries of supervisorial districts after each decennial federal census, as specified. Additionally, during the same time that SB 1108 (Allen) was being considered in the Legislature, SB 958 (Lara), Chapter 781, Statutes of 2016, was signed into law and required the establishment of a Citizens Redistricting Commission in Los Angeles County and charged it with adjusting the boundaries of supervisorial districts after each decennial federal census, as specified.

Similarly, last session the Legislature approved and the Governor signed AB 801 (Weber), Chapter 711, Statutes of 2017, which repealed San Diego County's redistricting commission and instead established a Citizens Redistricting Commission and charged it with adjusting the boundaries of supervisorial districts after each decennial federal census, as specified.

Moreover, last year, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed SB 1018 (Allen), Chapter 462, Statutes of 2018, which extended the authority to adopt redistricting commissions to school districts, community college districts, and special districts. Additionally, due to concerns raised about the conditions imposed on independent commissions by SB 1108 (Allen), SB 1018 relaxed some of the eligibility requirements for members of independent commissions and eased one of the post-service restrictions on those members in an effort to expand the pool of individuals who are available to serve on such commissions. Moreover, SB 1018 allowed for the creation of hybrid commissions, subject to the same restrictions and requirements as independent commissions.

This bill makes significant changes to the local redistricting commission provisions of law

described above and creates a different policy for certain counties. Specifically, this bill requires, instead of permits, a county with more than 250,000, but less than 750,000 residents, to establish an independent redistricting commission to adjust the boundary lines of districts for the county board of supervisors if funding is appropriated through the state budget or other statute, as specified. At the time of writing this analysis, no funding has been identified, consequently these provisions may not be enforceable if this bill is signed into law.

Additionally, this bill requires, instead of permits, a county with over 750,000 residents to establish an independent redistricting commission to adjust the boundary lines of districts for the county board of supervisors, as specified. In other words, this bill takes away the option for certain counties to decide whether to establish a redistricting commission, the type of commission to establish, and the method by which commission members are appointed.

- 5) **Local Redistricting Commissions:** Since the establishment of the CRC, many local governments have created their own redistricting entities. According to research from the California Local Redistricting Project's 2017 updated report, 37 California local governments have either established or used a redistricting commission to recommend or redraw election district boundaries following the 2010 census. The report points out that while most of the commissions were established for the 2010 redistricting cycle, 17 are permanent commissions and are legally required to be re-established after each census. Of those 17 permanent commissions, 11 are independent commissions (8 cities, 2 counties, and 1 school district).

Last November, the voters in Santa Barbara County approved a local ballot measure to create an independent redistricting commission, as specified.

- 6) **Population by County:** According to the Department of Finance's county population projections, there are 26 counties with a projected population of over 250,000 residents, but less than 750,000 residents, and 15 counties (including Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco) with a projected population of over 750,000 residents for 2019. Below is a list of the following counties likely affected by the provisions of this bill:

County	2019 Estimated Population
Alameda	1,686,072
Contra Costa	1,165,190
Fresno	1,021,856
Kern	919,366
Los Angeles	10,381,835
Marin	264,349
Merced	283,084
Monterey	450,846
Orange	3,240,543
Placer	391,993
Riverside	2,463,191
Sacramento	1,555,021
San Bernardino	2,207,672
San Diego	3,372,342

San Francisco	897,312
San Joaquin	771,535
San Luis Obispo	282,230
San Mateo	785,847
Santa Barbara	457,138
Santa Clara	1,989,441
Santa Cruz	280,630
Solano	448,332
Sonoma	511,308
Stanislaus	565,196
Tulare	482,697
Ventura	864,821

These are estimated projections and are subject to change. Yolo County is projected to reach 250,000 residents in 2027 and Butte County in 2032.

- 7) **Arguments in Support:** In support, a coalition of organizations that includes the two co-sponsors of this bill writes:

Unfortunately gerrymandering has continued at the local level. A 2015 National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) report found that Latinos constitute only 10% of county supervisors in California even though almost 40% of the state's population is Latino. Similarly, although many jurisdictions' residents are politically diverse, there is often near single-party rule in many counties. In many jurisdictions, incumbents have used the local line-drawing process to disenfranchise growing ethnic and language minority communities, reduce the voting power of political minorities, and even draw political opponents out of the district they were planning to run in.

This bill requires large counties to create an independent redistricting commission that will have the full power to draft and adopt district maps, independent of the board of supervisors. SB 139 requires that the commission members be politically independent. For the first time, the bill also prohibits partisan gerrymandering in county redistricting. SB 139 will bring more transparency and nonpartisan redistricting to California counties and ensure a more democratic process and more representative local government.

- 8) **Arguments in Opposition:** In opposition to a prior version, the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials wrote that they have concerns with the timing of the screening panel application process as it will likely occur at the same time that elections officials will be conducting the post-election canvassing duties for the November 2020 general election and subsequent general elections in years ending in zero after 2021. Additionally, they have concerns regarding the costs associated with this bill as it creates a state-mandated local program.

Additionally, in a joint letter of opposition from the California Association of Counties, the Urban Counties of California, and the Rural County Representatives of California they write that "[b]ecause SB 139 is far-reaching and affects 23 counties across the state, our primary concern is about cost. The provisions of SB 139 constitute a clear mandate for which the

state will be required to reimburse counties pursuant to Article XIII, Section 6 of the California Constitution. However, we are concerned that – as past experience has indicated – the state will avoid paying mandated costs by suspending the mandate ... To that end, we continue to request amendments to provide full and appropriate funding to allow counties to meet the obligations set forth in the bill. We acknowledge and appreciate the importance of a fair redistricting process, but if the new requirements are issues of statewide importance, then the state should be willing to pay the cost. If not, then it would be better to leave the statute as is and allow each community to decide for itself whether it wishes to create a commission to make the redistricting process more independent.

“It appears that recent amendments to SB 139 address workload concerns expressed by county elections officials and attempt to include additional flexibility regarding the makeup of the commission. However, these changes do very little to mitigate costs that will undoubtedly be considerable.”

- 9) **Related Legislation:** AB 1724 (Salas), requires general law cities and counties to establish independent redistricting commissions that are modeled after the constitutionally required CRC, as specified. AB 1724 is pending in this committee.
- 10) **Previous Legislation:** SB 958 (Lara), Chapter 781, Statutes of 2016, establishes a 14-member Citizens Redistricting Commission in the County of Los Angeles, which is charged with adjusting the boundary lines of the districts of the Board of Supervisors.

AB 801 (Weber), Chapter 711, Statutes of 2017, revised the existing membership of the County of San Diego Citizens Redistricting Commission to a 14-member commission charged with adjusting the boundary lines of the districts of the Board of Supervisors.

SB 1331 (Kehoe), Chapter 508, Statutes of 2012, established the independent redistricting commission in San Diego County and stipulated that only retired state or federal judges are eligible to serve on the redistricting commission.

- 11) **Double Referral:** This bill has been double-referred to the Assembly Committee on Local Government.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Common Cause (co-sponsor)
League of Women Voters California (co-sponsor)
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
California Clean Money Campaign
California League of Conservation Voters
California Voices for Progress
City of Santa Monica (prior version)
Courage Campaign
Drug Policy Alliance
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Indivisible CA: StateStrong (prior version)

Mi Familia Vota
NARAL Pro-Choice California (prior version)
RepresentUs (prior version)
Service Employees International Union
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Western States Council
Voices for Progress

Opposition

California State Association of Counties
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (prior version)
Rural County Representatives of California
Urban Counties of California

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