

BETTER
BOUNDARIES

July 19, 2017

The Honorable Spencer J. Cox
Utah Lt. Governor's Office
Utah State Capitol Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Received

JUL 20 2017

Spencer J. Cox
Lieutenant Governor

Re: Utahns for Responsive Government Better Boundaries Redistricting Initiative Application

Dear Lt. Governor Spencer Cox:

As Co-Chairs of the Better Boundaries Campaign, we firmly believe that our current redistricting process requires reform. The Utah Constitution provides that "all political power is inherent in the people." Our current redistricting process, however, undermines this fundamental Utah value because it allows incumbent politicians to manipulate the redistricting process by selecting the people who vote for them. This system has resulted in less competitive races and politicians who prioritize the demands of special interest groups over the needs of their constituents.

The Better Boundaries campaign is committed to bringing people of all political persuasions together to work toward combating the negative impact gerrymandering has had on Utah's communities. The initiative will modify the current system of redistricting by establishing an independent redistricting commission and prescribing redistricting standards and requirements. This improved system will reinforce our democracy by making our elected officials more accountable, increasing the competitiveness of our elections, reducing polarization, and strengthening voter participation and civic engagement.

Decades of allowing politicians to pick their voters has resulted in less accountability in government and a staggering level of distrust among the electorate. When everyday Utahns' voices are not being heard, our communities suffer. Addressing this dysfunction and restoring faith in our representative democracy is the challenge of our time. The Better Boundaries campaign is committed to tackling that challenge.

Sincerely,



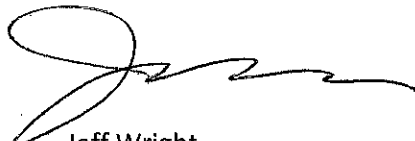
Ralph Becker



Blake Moore



Karen Shepherd



Jeff Wright

Application for an Initiative or Referendum

Utah Code 20A-7-202



PLEASE NOTE: A copy of the proposed law must be attached to this application along with a statement indicating whether or not signature gatherers will be paid for their services.

Please type or print

Application must be completed by five sponsors

Sponsor Statement

I, Ralph Becker affirm that I am a resident of Utah and I have voted in a regular general election in Utah within the last three years.
Name of Sponsor (please type or print)

5 South 500 West, # 102
Residence Address

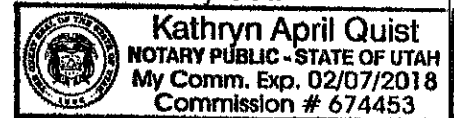
Ralph Becker
Sponsor's Signature

Salt Lake City, UT 84101
City, State, Zip

(801) 550-2812
Phone Number

Notary Seal

Subscribed and affirmed before me this 18th day of July 2017



[Signature]
Notary Public

My commission expires 02/07/2018

To File this Form

Mail or deliver to
Lieutenant Governor's Office
Utah State Capitol
Suite 220
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2325
Fax (801) 538-1133

For More Information call
(801) 538-1041
1-800-995-VOTE (8683)
elections@utah.gov

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Sponsor Statement

I, Jeff Wright affirm that I am a resident of Utah and I have voted in a regular general election in Utah within the last three years.
Name of Sponsor (please type or print)

2743 Meadow Creek Drive

Residence Address

Sponsor's Signature

Park City, UT 84060

City, State, Zip

(801) 983-6701

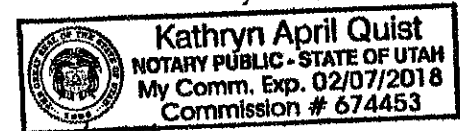
Phone Number

Notary Seal

Subscribed and affirmed before me this 18th day of July 2017

Notary Public

My commission expires



02/07/18

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Please type or print

Application must be completed by five sponsors

Sponsor Statement

I, Blake Moore affirm that I am a resident of Utah and I have voted in a regular general election in Utah within the last three years.
Name of Sponsor (please type or print)

1109 South 2000 East
Residence Address


Sponsor's Signature

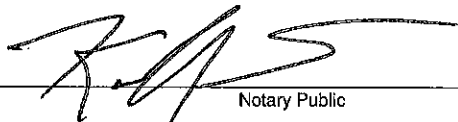
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
City, State, Zip

(801) 456-6757
Phone Number

Notary Seal

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Please type or print

Application must be completed by five sponsors

Sponsor Statement

I, Tim Chambless

Name of Sponsor (please type or print)

affirm that I am a resident of Utah and I have voted in a regular general election in Utah within the last three years.

1977 Scenic Drive

Residence Address

Sponsor's Signature

Salt Lake City, UT 84108-3315

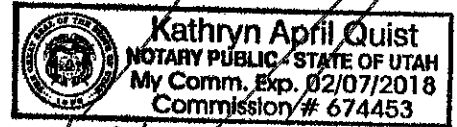
City, State, Zip


(801) 467-2926

Phone Number

Notary Seal

Subscribed and affirmed before me this 18th day of July 20 17




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Please type or print

Application must be completed by five sponsors

Sponsor Statement

I, Rebecca Chavez-Houck affirm that I am a resident of Utah and I have voted in a regular general election in Utah within the last three years.
Name of Sponsor (please type or print)

643 East 16th Avenue
Residence Address

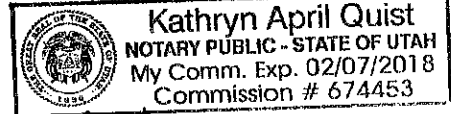
Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Sponsor's Signature

Salt Lake City, UT 84103
City, State, Zip

(801) 891-9292
Phone Number

Notary Seal

Subscribed and affirmed before me this 18th day of July, 2017



[Signature]
Notary Public

My commission expires 02/07/2018

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UTAH INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION AND STANDARDS ACT

1 LONG TITLE

2 General Description:

3 This initiative enacts provisions in Title 20A (Election Code) and amends provisions in
4 Title 63G (General Government) and in Title 52 (Public Officers) of the Utah Code to establish
5 the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission and to enact standards, procedures, and
6 requirements related to redistricting by the Legislature and redistricting plans recommended by
7 the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission.

8 Statement of Intent and Subject Matter:

9 This initiative creates the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission and establishes
10 objective standards, procedures, and requirements for creating the boundaries of Utah's
11 congressional, state legislative, and other districts.

12 The Utah Constitution provides that "all political power is inherent in the people." Yet,
13 our current redistricting process undermines this fundamental Utah value, because it empowers
14 incumbent politicians to select the people who vote for them and allows incumbent politicians to
15 manipulate the redistricting process for their own personal and political gain. The current system
16 has resulted in less competitive races, less accountability to constituents, and politicians who
17 prioritize the demands of partisan and special interest groups over the needs of their constituents
18 and our Utah communities. Politicians should not get to choose to whom they are accountable.

19 This initiative will modify the current system of redistricting by establishing the Utah
20 Independent Redistricting Commission, which will draw district boundaries through an open and
21 independent process and then submit recommended redistricting plans to the Legislature to enact
22 or reject. Utahns will be allowed to provide input into how districts are drawn and to submit

23 their own redistricting plans for the Commission's consideration.

24 This initiative also establishes redistricting standards and requirements, such as
25 compliance with the Constitution and federal laws, population equality, keeping cities, towns,
26 and counties together, creating compact and contiguous districts, and respecting traditional
27 neighborhoods, communities, and natural features. This initiative also prohibits the Legislature
28 and the Commission from using redistricting to favor or disfavor any particular person, group, or
29 political party.

30 The improved redistricting system created by this initiative will strengthen our
31 democracy by making our elected officials more accountable to the communities they represent,
32 increasing the competitiveness of our elections, reducing polarization, and strengthening voter
33 participation and civic engagement. This will help restore voter confidence in our government,
34 which is critical to ensuring that the voices of Utahns are heard and that Utahns have a
35 government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

36 **Highlighted Provisions:**

37 This initiative:

- 38 ▪ Enacts redistricting standards, procedures, and requirements, including provisions
39 related to the timing of redistricting;
- 40 ▪ Establishes the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission;
- 41 ▪ Provides that the Commission and the Legislature shall consider redistricting plans in
42 a transparent manner that allows for public input;
- 43 ▪ Requires the Commission to recommend redistricting plans for to the Legislature;
- 44 ▪ Requires the Legislature to either enact or reject redistricting plans recommended by
45 the Commission;

- 46 ▪ Requires the Legislature to issue a detailed explanation if it enacts a redistricting plan
47 other than a plan recommended by the Commission;
- 48 ▪ Provides that the Commission may issue public statements, assessments, and reports
49 in response to the Legislature enacting a redistricting plan other than a plan
50 recommended by the Commission;
- 51 ▪ Grants a private right of action to Utahns to seek and obtain a court-ordered
52 injunction halting the enforcement or implementation of a redistricting plan that fails
53 to abide by or conform to the redistricting standards, procedures, and requirements set
54 forth in this initiative;
- 55 ▪ Amends the Open and Public Meetings Act and the Government Records Access and
56 Management Act to apply to the Commission; and
- 57 ▪ Provides a severability clause.

58 **Monies Appropriated in this Initiative:**

59 None

60 **Other Special Clauses:**

61 None

62 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

63 **ENACTS:**

- 64 ▪ **20A-19-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 65 ▪ **20A-19-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 66 ▪ **20A-19-103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 67 ▪ **20A-19-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 68 ▪ **20A-19-201**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

92 circumstances:

93 (1) no later than the first annual general legislative session after the Legislature's receipt
94 of the results of a national decennial enumeration made by the authority of the United States;

95 (2) no later than the first annual general legislative session after a change in the number
96 of congressional, legislative, or other districts resulting from an event other than a national
97 decennial enumeration made by the authority of the United States;

98 (3) upon the issuance of a permanent injunction by a court of competent jurisdiction
99 under Section 20A-19-301(2) and as provided in Section 20A-19-301(8);

100 (4) to conform with a final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction; or

101 (5) to make minor adjustments or technical corrections to district boundaries.

102

103 Section 3. Section **20A-19-103** is enacted to read:

104 **20A-19-103. Redistricting Standards and Requirements.**

105 (1) This Section establishes redistricting standards and requirements applicable to the
106 Legislature and to the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission.

107 (2) The Legislature and the Commission shall abide by the following redistricting
108 standards to the greatest extent practicable and in the following order of priority:

109 (a) adhering to the Constitution of the United States and federal laws, such as the Voting
110 Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. Secs. 10101 through 10702, including, to the extent required, achieving
111 equal population among districts using the most recent national decennial enumeration made by
112 the authority of the United States;

113 (b) minimizing the division of municipalities and counties across multiple districts,
114 giving first priority to minimizing the division of municipalities and second priority to

115 minimizing the division of counties;

116 (c) creating districts that are geographically compact;

117 (d) creating districts that are contiguous and that allow for the ease of transportation
118 throughout the district;

119 (e) preserving traditional neighborhoods and local communities of interest;

120 (f) following natural and geographic features, boundaries, and barriers; and

121 (g) maximizing boundary agreement among different types of districts.

122 (3) The Legislature and the Commission may not divide districts in a manner that
123 purposefully or unduly favors or disfavors any incumbent elected official, candidate or
124 prospective candidate for elective office, or any political party.

125 (4) The Legislature and the Commission shall use judicial standards and the best
126 available data and scientific and statistical methods, including measures of partisan symmetry, to
127 assess whether a proposed redistricting plan abides by and conforms to the redistricting standards
128 contained in this Section, including the restrictions contained in Subsection (3).

129 (5) Partisan political data and information, such as partisan election results, voting
130 records, political party affiliation information, and residential addresses of incumbent elected
131 officials and candidates or prospective candidates for elective office, may not be considered by
132 the Legislature or by the Commission, except as permitted under Subsection (4).

133 (6) The Legislature and the Commission shall make computer software and information
134 and data concerning proposed redistricting plans reasonably available to the public so that the
135 public has a meaningful opportunity to review redistricting plans and to conduct the assessments
136 described in Subsection (4).

137

138 Section 4. Section **20A-19-104** is enacted to read:

139 **20A-19-104. Severability.**

140 (1) The provisions of this chapter are severable.

141 (2) If any word, phrase, sentence, or section of this chapter or the application of any
142 word, phrase, sentence, or section of this chapter to any person or circumstance is held invalid by
143 a final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this chapter must be given
144 effect without the invalid word, phrase, sentence, section, or application.

145

146 Section 5. Section **20A-19-201** is enacted to read:

147 **Part 2. Utah Independent Redistricting Commission**

148 **20A-19-201. Utah Independent Redistricting Commission – Selection of**

149 **Commissioners – Qualifications – Term – Vacancy – Compensation – Commission**

150 **Resources.**

151 (1) This Act creates the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission.

152 (2) The Utah Independent Redistricting Commission comprises seven commissioners
153 appointed as provided in this Section.

154 (3) Each of the following appointing authorities shall appoint one commissioner:

155 (a) the governor, whose appointee shall serve as Commission chair;

156 (b) the president of the Senate;

157 (c) the speaker of the House of Representatives;

158 (d) the leader of the largest minority political party in the Senate;

159 (e) the leader of the largest minority political party in the House of Representatives;

160 (f) the leadership of the majority political party in the Senate, including the president of

161 the Senate, jointly with the leadership of the same political party in the House of Representatives
162 and the speaker of the House of Representatives if a member of that political party; and

163 (g) the leadership of the largest minority political party in the Senate jointly with the
164 leadership of the same political party in the House of Representatives and the speaker of the
165 House of Representatives if a member of that political party.

166 (4) The appointing authorities described in Subsection (3) shall appoint their
167 commissioners no later than 30 calendar days following:

168 (a) the receipt by the Legislature of a national decennial enumeration made by the
169 authority of the United States; or

170 (b) a change in the number of congressional, legislative, or other districts resulting from
171 an event other than a national decennial enumeration made by the authority of the United States.

172 (5) Commissioners appointed under Subsection (3)(f) and Subsection (3)(g), in addition
173 to the qualifications and conditions in Subsection (6), may not have at any time during the
174 preceding five years:

175 (a) been affiliated with any political party for the purposes of Section 20A-2-107;

176 (b) voted in any political party's regular primary election or any political party's
177 municipal primary election; or

178 (c) been a delegate to a political party convention.

179 (6) Each commissioner:

180 (a) must have been at all times an active voter, as defined in Section 20A-1-102(1),
181 during the four years preceding appointment to the Commission;

182 (b) must not have been at any time during the four years preceding appointment to the
183 Commission, and may not be during their service as commissioner or for four years thereafter:

184 (i) a lobbyist or principal, as those terms are defined under Section 36-11-102;
185 (ii) a candidate for or holder of any elective office, including any local government
186 office;
187 (iii) a candidate for or holder of any office of a political party, excluding the office of
188 political party delegate, or the recipient of compensation in any amount from a political party,
189 political party committee, personal campaign committee, or any political action committee
190 affiliated with a political party or controlled by an elected official or candidate for elective office,
191 including any local government office;
192 (iv) appointed by the governor or the Legislature to any other public office; or
193 (v) employed by the Congress of the United States, the Legislature, or the holder of any
194 position that reports directly to an elected official or to any person appointed by the governor or
195 Legislature to any other public office.
196 (7)(a) Each commissioner shall file with the Commission and with the governor a signed
197 statement certifying that the commissioner:
198 (i) meets and will continue to meet throughout their term as commissioner the applicable
199 qualifications contained in this Section;
200 (ii) will comply with the standards, procedures, and requirements applicable to
201 redistricting contained in this chapter;
202 (iii) will faithfully discharge the commissioner's duties in an independent, honest,
203 transparent, and impartial manner; and
204 (iv) will not engage in any effort to purposefully or unduly favor or disfavor any
205 incumbent elected official, candidate or prospective candidate for elective office, or any political
206 party.

207 (b) The Commission and the governor shall make available to the public the statements
208 required under Subsection (7)(a).

209 (8)(a) A commissioner's term lasts until a successor is appointed or until that
210 commissioner's death, resignation, or removal.

211 (b) A commissioner may resign at any time by providing written notice to the
212 Commission and to the governor.

213 (c) A commissioner may be removed only by a majority vote of the speaker of the House
214 of Representatives and the leader of the largest minority political party in the House of
215 Representatives and the president of the Senate and leader of the largest minority political party
216 in the Senate, and may be removed only for failure to meet the qualifications of this Section,
217 incapacity, or for other good cause, such as substantial neglect of duty or gross misconduct in
218 office.

219 (9)(a) The appointing authority that appointed a commissioner shall fill a vacancy caused
220 by the death, resignation, or removal of that commissioner within 21 calendar days after the
221 vacancy occurs.

222 (b) If the appointing authority at the time of the vacancy is of a different political party
223 than that of the appointing authority when the original appointment was made, then the
224 corresponding appointing authority of the same political party in the Senate, the House, or the
225 leadership, as the case may be, as the appointing authority that made the original appointment
226 must make the appointment to fill the vacancy.

227 (10) If an appointing authority fails to appoint a commissioner or to fill a vacancy by the
228 deadlines provided in this Section, then the chief justice of the Supreme Court of the State of
229 Utah shall appoint that commissioner within 14 calendar days after the failure to appoint or fill a

230 vacancy.

231 (11)(a) Commissioners may not receive compensation or benefits for their service, but
232 may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:

233 (i) Section 63A-3-106;

234 (ii) Section 63A-3-107; and

235 (iii) rules of the Division of Finance under Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.

236 (b) A commissioner may decline to receive per diem and travel expenses.

237 (12)(a) The Legislature shall appropriate adequate funds for the Commission to carry out
238 its duties, and shall make available to the Commission such personnel, facilities, equipment, and
239 other resources as the Commission may reasonably request.

240 (b) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide the technical
241 staff, legal assistance, computer equipment, computer software, and other equipment and
242 resources to the Commission that the Commission reasonably requests.

243 (c) The Commission has procurement and contracting authority, and upon a majority
244 vote, may procure the services of staff, legal counsel, consultants, and experts, and may acquire
245 the computers, data, software, and other equipment and resources that are necessary to carry out
246 its duties effectively.

247

248 Section 6. Section **20A-19-202** is enacted to read:

249 **20A-19-202. Commission Code of Conduct – Quorum – Action by the Commission**
250 **– Assessment of Proposed Redistricting Plans – Open and Public Meetings – Public**
251 **Hearings – Ex Parte Communications.**

252 (1) The Commission shall conduct its activities in an independent, honest, transparent,

253 and impartial manner, and each commissioner and member of Commission, including staff and
254 consultants employed or retained by the Commission, shall act in a manner that reflects
255 creditably on the Commission.

256 (2) The Commission shall meet upon the request of a majority of commissioners.

257 (3) Attendance of a majority of commissioners at a meeting constitutes a quorum for the
258 conduct of Commission business and the taking of official Commission actions.

259 (4) The Commission takes official actions by majority vote of commissioners at a
260 meeting at which a quorum is present, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

261 (5)(a) The Commission may consider any redistricting plan submitted to the Commission
262 by any person or organization, including commissioners.

263 (b) The Commission shall make available to each commissioner and to the public all
264 plans or elements of plans submitted to the Commission or to any commissioner.

265 (6) Upon the affirmative vote of at least three commissioners, the Commission shall
266 conduct the assessments described in Section 20A-19-103(4) of any redistricting plan being
267 considered by the Commission or by the Legislature, and shall promptly make the assessments
268 available to the public.

269 (7)(a) The Commission shall establish and maintain a website, or other equivalent
270 electronic platform, to disseminate information about the Commission, including records of its
271 meetings and public hearings, proposed redistricting plans, and assessments of and reports on
272 redistricting plans, and to allow the public to view its meetings and public hearings in both live
273 and in archived form.

274 (b) The Commission's website, or other equivalent electronic platform, must allow the
275 public to submit redistricting plans and comments on redistricting plans to the Commission for

276 its consideration.

277 (8) The Commission is subject to Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act,
278 Secs. 52-4-101 to 52-4-305, and to Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and
279 Management Act, Secs. 63G-2-101 to 63G-2-804.

280 (9)(a) The Commission shall, by majority vote, determine the number, locations, and
281 dates of the public hearings to be held by the Commission, but the Commission shall hold no
282 fewer than seven public hearings throughout the state in connection with each redistricting that is
283 permitted under Section 20A-19-102(1)-(2) as follows:

284 (i) one in the Bear River region—Box Elder, Cache, or Rich County;

285 (ii) one in the Southwest region—Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, or Washington County;

286 (iii) one in the Mountain region—Summit, Utah, or Wasatch County;

287 (iv) one in the Central region—Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, or Wayne County;

288 (v) one in the Southeast region—Carbon, Emery, Grand, or San Juan County;

289 (vi) one in the Uintah Basin region—Daggett, Duchesne, or Uintah County; and

290 (vii) one in the Wasatch Front region—Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Tooele, or Weber
291 County.

292 (b) The Commission shall hold at least two public hearings in a first or second class
293 county but not in the same county.

294 (10) Each public hearing must provide those in attendance a reasonable opportunity to
295 submit written and oral comments to the Commission and to propose redistricting plans for the
296 Commission's consideration.

297 (11) The Commission must hold the public hearings required under Subsection (9) by:

298 (a) the earlier of the 120th calendar day after the Legislature's receipt of the results of a

299 national decennial enumeration made by the authority of the United States or August 31st of that
300 year; or

301 (b) no later than 120 calendar days after a change in the number of congressional,
302 legislative, or other districts that results from an event other than a national decennial
303 enumeration made by the authority of the United States.

304 (12)(a) A commissioner may not engage in any private communication with any person
305 other than other commissioners, Commission personnel, including consultants retained by the
306 Commission, and employees of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, that is
307 material to any redistricting plan or element of a plan pending before the Commission or
308 intended to be proposed for Commission consideration, without making the communication, or a
309 detailed and accurate description of the communication including the names of all parties to the
310 communication and the plan or element of the plan, available to the Commission and to the
311 public.

312 (b) A commissioner shall make the disclosure required by Subsection (12)(a) before the
313 redistricting plan or element of a plan is considered by the Commission.

314

315 Section 7. Section **20A-19-203** is enacted to read:

316 **20A-19-203. Selection of Recommended Redistricting Plan.**

317 (1) The Commission shall prepare and, by the affirmative vote of at least five
318 commissioners, adopt at least one and as many as three redistricting plans that the Commission
319 determines divide the state into congressional, legislative, or other districts in a manner that
320 satisfies the redistricting standards and requirements contained in this chapter as the
321 Commission's recommended redistricting plan or plans no later than 30 calendar days following

322 completion of the public hearings required under Section 20A-19-202(9); and

323 (2)(a) If the Commission fails to adopt a redistricting plan by the deadline identified in
324 Subsection (1), the Commission shall submit no fewer than two redistricting plans to the chief
325 justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah.

326 (b) The chief justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah shall, as soon as
327 practicable, select from the submitted plans at least one and as many as three redistricting plans
328 that the chief justice determines divide the state into congressional, legislative, and other districts
329 in a manner that satisfies the redistricting standards and requirements contained in this chapter as
330 the Commission's recommended redistricting plan or plans.

331 (c) Of the plans submitted by the Commission to the chief justice of the Supreme Court
332 of the State of Utah under Subsection (2)(a), at least one plan must be supported by the
333 commissioner appointed under Section 20A-19-201(3)(f), and at least one plan must be
334 supported by the commissioner appointed under Section 20A-19-201(3)(g).

335

336 Section 8. Section **20A-19-204** is enacted to read:

337 **20A-19-204. Submission of Commission's Recommended Redistricting Plans to the**
338 **Legislature – Consideration of Redistricting Plans by the Legislature – Report Required if**
339 **Legislature Enacts Other Plan.**

340 (1)(a) The Commission shall submit to the president of the Senate, the speaker of the
341 House of Representatives, and the director of the Office of Legislative Research and General
342 Counsel, and make available to the public, the redistricting plan or plans recommended under
343 Section 20A-19-203 and a detailed written report setting forth each plan's adherence to the
344 redistricting standards and requirements contained in this chapter.

345 (b) The Commission shall make the submissions described in Subsection (1)(a), to the
346 extent practicable, not less than 10 calendar days before the Senate or the House of
347 Representatives votes on any redistricting plan permitted under Section 20A-19-102(1)-(2).

348 (2)(a) The Legislature shall either enact without change or amendment, other than
349 technical corrections such as those authorized under Section 36-12-12, or reject the
350 Commission's recommended redistricting plans submitted to the Legislature under Subsection
351 (1).

352 (b) The president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives may
353 direct legislative staff to prepare a legislative review note and a legislative fiscal note on the
354 Commission's recommended redistricting plan or plans.

355 (3) The Legislature may not enact any redistricting plan permitted under Section 20A-
356 19-102(1)-(2) until adequate time has been afforded to the Commission and to the chief justice of
357 the Supreme Court of the State of Utah to satisfy their duties under this chapter, including the
358 consideration and assessment of redistricting plans, public hearings, and the selection of one or
359 more recommended redistricting plans.

360 (4) The Legislature may not enact a redistricting plan or modification of any
361 redistricting plan unless the plan or modification has been made available to the public by the
362 Legislature, including by making it available on the Legislature's website, or other equivalent
363 electronic platform, for a period of no less than 10 calendar days and in a manner and format that
364 allows the public to assess the plan for adherence to the redistricting standards and requirements
365 contained in this chapter and that allows the public to submit comments on the plan to the
366 Legislature.

367 (5)(a) If a redistricting plan other than a plan submitted to the Legislature under

368 Subsection (1) is enacted by the Legislature, then no later than seven calendar days after its
369 enactment the Legislature shall issue to the public a detailed written report setting forth the
370 reasons for rejecting the plan or plans submitted to the Legislature under Subsection (1) and a
371 detailed explanation of why the redistricting plan enacted by the Legislature better satisfies the
372 redistricting standards and requirements contained in this chapter.

373 (b) The Commission may, by majority vote, issue public statements, assessments, and
374 reports in response to:

375 (i) any report by the Legislature described in Subsection (5)(a);

376 (ii) the Legislature's consideration or enactment of any redistricting plan, including any
377 plan submitted to the Legislature under Subsection (1); or

378 (iii) the Legislature's consideration or enactment of any modification to a redistricting
379 plan.

380

381 Section 9. Section **20A-19-301** is enacted to read:

382 **Part 3. Private Right of Action for Utahns**

383 **20A-19-301. Right of Action and Injunctive Relief.**

384 (1) Each person who resides or is domiciled in the state, or whose executive office or
385 principal place of business is located in the state, may bring an action in a court of competent
386 jurisdiction to obtain any of the relief available under Subsection (2).

387 (2) If a court of competent jurisdiction determines in any action brought under this
388 Section that a redistricting plan enacted by the Legislature fails to abide by or conform to the
389 redistricting standards, procedures, and requirements set forth in this chapter, the court shall
390 issue a permanent injunction barring enforcement or implementation of the redistricting plan. In

391 addition, the court may issue a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction that
392 temporarily stays enforcement or implementation of the redistricting plan at issue if the court
393 determines that:

394 (a) the plaintiff is likely to show by a preponderance of the evidence that a permanent
395 injunction under this Subsection should issue, and

396 (b) issuing a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction is in the public
397 interest.

398 (3) A plaintiff bringing an action under this Section is not required to give or post a
399 bond, security, or collateral in connection with obtaining any relief under this Section.

400 (4) In any action brought under this Section, the court shall review or evaluate the
401 redistricting plan at issue de novo.

402 (5) If a plaintiff bringing an action under this Section is successful in obtaining any relief
403 under Subsection (2), the court shall order the defendant in the action to promptly pay reasonable
404 compensation for actual, necessary services rendered by an attorney, consulting or testifying
405 expert, or other professional, or any corporation, association, or other entity or group of other
406 persons, employed or engaged by the plaintiff, and to promptly reimburse the attorney,
407 consulting or testifying expert, or other professional, or any corporation, association, or other
408 entity or group of other persons, employed or engaged by the plaintiff for actual, necessary
409 expenses. If there is more than one defendant in the action, each of the defendants is jointly and
410 severally liable for the compensation and expenses awarded by the court.

411 (6) In any action brought under this Section, the court may order a plaintiff to pay
412 reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services rendered by an attorney, consulting or
413 testifying expert, or other professional, or any corporation, association, or other entity or group

414 of other persons, employed or engaged by a defendant, and to promptly reimburse the attorney,
415 consulting or testifying expert, or other professional, or any corporation, association, or other
416 entity or group of other persons, employed or engaged by a defendant for actual, necessary
417 expenses, only if the court determines that:

418 (a) the plaintiff brought the action for an improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause
419 unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation;

420 (b) the plaintiff's claims, defenses, and other legal contentions are not warranted by
421 existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of
422 existing law or the establishment of new law; or

423 (c) the plaintiff's allegations and other factual contentions do not have any evidentiary
424 support, or if specifically so identified, are not likely to have evidentiary support after a
425 reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery.

426 (7) Notwithstanding Title 63G, Chapter 7, Governmental Immunity Act of Utah, a
427 governmental entity named as a defendant in any action brought under this Section is not
428 immune from such action or from payment of compensation or reimbursement of expenses
429 awarded by the court under Subsection (5).

430 (8) Upon the issuance of a permanent injunction under Subsection (2), the Legislature
431 may enact a new or alternative redistricting plan that abides by and conforms to the redistricting
432 standards, procedures, and requirements of this chapter.

433

434 Section 10. Section **63G-7-301, Governmental Immunity Act of Utah**, is amended to
435 read:

436 **63G-7-301. Waivers of immunity.**

437 ...

438 (2) Immunity from suit of each governmental entity is waived:

439 (a) as to any action brought to recover, obtain possession of, or quiet title to real or
440 personal property;

441 (b) as to any action brought to foreclose mortgages or other liens on real or personal
442 property, to determine any adverse claim on real or personal property, or to obtain an
443 adjudication about any mortgage or other lien that the governmental entity may have or claim on
444 real or personal property;

445 (c) as to any action based on the negligent destruction, damage, or loss of goods,
446 merchandise, or other property while it is in the possession of any governmental entity or
447 employee, if the property was seized for the purpose of forfeiture under any provision of state
448 law;

449 (d) subject to Subsection 63G-7-302(1), as to any action brought under the authority of
450 Utah Constitution, Article I, Section 22, for the recovery of compensation from the governmental
451 entity when the governmental entity has taken or damaged private property for public uses
452 without just compensation;

453 (e) subject to Subsection 63G-7-302(2), as to any action brought to recover attorney fees
454 under Sections 63G-2-405 and 63G-2-802;

455 (f) for actual damages under Title 67, Chapter 21, Utah Protection of Public Employees
456 Act;

457 (g) as to any action brought to obtain relief from a land use regulation that imposes a
458 substantial burden on the free exercise of religion under Title 63L, Chapter 5, Utah Religious
459 Land Use Act;

- 460 (h) except as provided in Subsection 63G-7-201(3), as to any injury caused by:
- 461 (i) a defective, unsafe, or dangerous condition of any highway, road, street, alley,
462 crosswalk, sidewalk, culvert, tunnel, bridge, viaduct, or other structure located on them; or
- 463 (ii) any defective or dangerous condition of a public building, structure, dam,
464 reservoir, or other public improvement; [~~and~~]
- 465 (i) subject to Subsections 63G-7-101(4) and 63G-7-201(4), as to any injury proximately
466 caused by a negligent act or omission of an employee committed within the scope of
467 employment[-]; and
- 468 (j) as to any action or suit brought under Section 20A-19-301 and as to any
469 compensation or expenses awarded under Section 20A-19-301(5).

470

471 Section 11. Section **63G-2-103, Government Records Access and Management Act,**
472 is amended to read:

473 **63G-2-103. Definitions.**

474 As used in this chapter:

475 . . .

476 (11)(a) "Governmental entity" means:

477 (i) executive department agencies of the state, the offices of the governor, lieutenant
478 governor, state auditor, attorney general, and state treasurer, the Board of Pardons and Parole, the
479 Board of Examiners, the National Guard, the Career Service Review Office, the State Board of
480 Education, the State Board of Regents, and the State Archives;

481 (ii) the Office of the Legislative Auditor General, Office of the Legislative Fiscal
482 Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, the Legislature, and legislative

483 committees, except any political party, group, caucus, or rules or sifting committee of the
484 Legislature;

485 (iii) courts, the Judicial Council, the Office of the Court Administrator, and similar
486 administrative units in the judicial branch;

487 (iv) any state-funded institution of higher education or public education; or

488 (v) any political subdivision of the state, but, if a political subdivision has adopted an
489 ordinance or a policy relating to information practices pursuant to Section 63G-2-701, this
490 chapter shall apply to the political subdivision to the extent specified in Section 63G-2-701 or as
491 specified in any other section of this chapter that specifically refers to political subdivisions.

492 (b) "Governmental entity" also means:

493 (i) every office, agency, board, bureau, committee, department, advisory board, or
494 commission of an entity listed in Subsection (11)(a) that is funded or established by the
495 government to carry out the public's business;

496 (ii) as defined in Section 11-13-103, an interlocal entity or joint or cooperative
497 undertaking; and

498 (iii) as defined in Section 11-13a-102, a governmental nonprofit corporation; [~~and~~]

499 (iv) an association as defined in Section 53A-1-1601[~~;~~]; and

500 (v) the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission.

501 (c) "Governmental entity" does not include the Utah Educational Savings Plan created
502 in Section 53B-8a-103.

503 ...

504

505 Section 12. Section **52-4-103, Open and Public Meetings Act**, is amended to read:

506 **52-4-103. Definitions.**

507 As used in this chapter:

508 ...

509 (9)(a) "Public body" means any administrative, advisory, executive, or legislative body of
510 the state or its political subdivisions that:

511 (i) any administrative, advisory, executive, or legislative body of the state or its political
512 subdivisions that:

513 (A) is created by the Utah Constitution, statute, rule, ordinance, or resolution;

514 (B) consists of two or more persons;

515 (C) expends, disburses, or is supported in whole or in part by tax revenue; and

516 (D) is vested with the authority to make decisions regarding the public's business; or

517 (ii) any administrative, advisory, executive, or policymaking body of an association, as
518 defined in Section 53A-1-1601, that:

519 (A) consists of two or more persons;

520 (B) expends, disburses, or is supported in whole or in part by dues paid by a public
521 school or whose employees participate in a benefit or program described in Title 49, Utah State
522 Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act; and

523 (C) is vested with authority to make decisions regarding the participation of a public
524 school or student in an interscholastic activity as defined in Section 53A-1-1601.

525 (b) "Public body" includes:

526 (i) as defined in Section 11-13-103, an interlocal entity or joint or cooperative
527 undertaking; ~~and~~

528 (ii) as defined in Section 11-13a-102, a governmental nonprofit corporation~~[-];~~ and

