

**INITIATIVE FINANCIAL INFORMATION STATEMENT
STANDARDS FOR LEGISLATURE TO FOLLOW IN CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING**

SUMMARY OF INITIATIVE FINANCIAL INFORMATION STATEMENT

The proposed constitutional amendment adds Section 20 to Article III of the Florida Constitution setting standards for establishing congressional districts or districting plans: congressional districts or districting plans may not be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party; districts shall not be drawn with the intent or result of denying racial or language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice; districts must be contiguous; and, unless otherwise required, districts must be as equal in population as practicable, must be compact, and must make use of existing political and geographical boundaries.

Given information provided through public workshops and collected through staff research, the Financial Impact Estimating Conference expects that the proposed amendment may result in increased costs based on the following:

- The State may incur additional legal costs to litigate the redistricting plans developed under the proposed constitutional standards. Since the amendment increases the number of factors that could be litigated, the districting initiative may expand the scope and complexity of litigation to determine the validity of each new apportionment plan. For example, the requirement that every district be drawn so as not to favor or disfavor any incumbent or political party may spawn challenges. Such costs are more likely during the first reapportionment after the amendment's passage as judicial clarification of the new standards is sought and the related legal doctrine developed. These legal costs are indeterminate.
- The Department of Legal Affairs concurs that there may be increased litigation costs, and that they may experience increased costs if they are asked to litigate these actions.
- The Office of the State Courts Administrator believes there will be an impact at the trial court and appellate level. They assume that litigation will increase. The amount of increased litigation is unknown and the estimated impact on the trial court, the judicial workload, and the appellate workload is indeterminate.
- The amendment does not substantially alter the current responsibilities or costs of the Department of State, the supervisors of elections, or local governments.
- Any additional cost to the Legislature to develop the plans is indeterminate.
- The amendment does not directly impact government revenues.