

Senate Resolution 485

By: Senators Beatty of the 47th, Price of the 56th, Stephens of the 51st, Williams of the 6th,  
Crofts of the 17th and others

## A RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Georgia so as to provide a short title; to provide requirements for apportioning state senate and representative districts and Congressional districts; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

### SECTION 1.

This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the "Representative Government Recovery Amendment."

### SECTION 2.

Article III of the Constitution is amended by striking Paragraph II of Section II and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"Paragraph II. Apportionment of General Assembly and Congressional Districts. (a) The General Assembly shall apportion the Senate, and House, and Congressional districts. ~~Such districts shall be composed of contiguous territory. The apportionment of the Senate and of the House of Representatives shall be changed by the General Assembly as necessary after each United States decennial census.~~

(b) The General Assembly shall reapportion Senate, and House, and Congressional districts after each decennial census.

(c) All districts shall comply with the United States Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

(d) All districts shall have as close to zero deviation from the ideal population size as is arithmetically possible to ensure that each senator, representative, and Congressperson represents, as nearly as possible, an equal number of inhabitants of the state for each such office.

(e) All districts shall be composed of contiguous territory and, to the extent practicable, follow natural geographic and historic boundaries.

(f) All districts shall be compact in form. Extremely irregularly shaped districts shall be avoided unless necessary to comply with the other requirements of this paragraph.

1     (g) No district shall divide a community of interest unless necessary to comply with  
2     federal standards or other provisions of this paragraph.

3     (h) The General Assembly shall not take into account, directly or indirectly, the voting  
4     patterns or political party affiliations of the voters.

5     (i) Districts shall divide as few counties and recognized political boundaries as is  
6     practicable to comply with the other provisions of this paragraph.

7     (j) No multimember districts shall be created."

## 8                                   **SECTION 2.**

9     The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as  
10    provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the  
11    above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

12    "( ) YES   Shall the Constitution be amended so as to provide requirements for  
13               apportioning congressional and state senatorial and representative election

14    ( ) NO    districts?"

15    All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."

16    All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If  
17    such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall  
18    become a part of the Constitution of this state.