

House Resolution 837

By: Representatives Westmoreland of the 104th, Jennings of the 63rd, Ehrhart of the 36th,
Wiles of the 34th, Mills of the 21st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to specify requirements applicable to
2 legislative and congressional reapportionment; to provide for related matters; to provide for
3 the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 SECTION 1.

6 Article II of the Constitution is amended by adding a new Section IV to read as follows:

7 "SECTION IV.

8 LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REAPPORTIONMENT

9 Paragraph I. *Requirements.* In each year following a year in which a United States
10 decennial census is conducted or when required by court order, legislative and
11 congressional reapportionment shall be conducted as provided in this section. The General
12 Assembly shall by general law apportion Senate, House, and Congressional districts in
13 accordance with the following:

14 (a) All districts shall comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of
15 1965, as amended;

16 (b) All districts shall have as close to zero deviation from the ideal population size as is
17 arithmetically possible to ensure that each Senator, Representative, or Congressperson
18 represents, as nearly as possible, an equal number of inhabitants of the state;

19 (c) All districts shall be composed of contiguous territory. Districts that connect on a
20 single point are not contiguous;

21 (d) All districts shall be compact in form. Bizarre shapes shall be avoided unless
22 necessary to comply with the other requirements in this paragraph;

23 (e) No district shall divide a community of interest unless necessary to comply with
24 federal standards or other provision of this paragraph;

1 (f) No district shall be established with the intent or effect of diluting the voting strength
2 of any person, group of persons, or members of any political party;

3 (g) Districts shall divide as few counties and recognized political boundaries as is
4 practicable to comply with the other provisions in this paragraph; and

5 (h) Single member districts shall be used in all cases and multi-member districts shall be
6 prohibited."

7 **SECTION 2.**

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

11 "() YES Shall the Constitution be amended so as to specify requirements applicable

12 () NO to legislative and congressional reapportionment?"

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

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