A bill to be entitled
An act relating to legislative apportionment and
congressional redistricting; creating s. 11.31, F.S.;
creating an independent commission on legislative
apportionment and congressional redistricting;
providing for the purpose, duties, and membership of
the commission; requiring the Legislature to annually
appropriate funds to the commission for employing
professional staff and otherwise supporting the
commission; requiring the commission's office to be
located in Orange County; requiring the commission to
conduct public hearings; providing procedures for such
hearings; requiring the commission to receive certain
information from residents of the state through
specified means; requiring the commission to transmit
certain plans to the Legislature for consideration;
providing that commission members and employees are
subject to chapters 119 and 286, F.S., relating to
public records and public meetings, respectively, and
are subject to specified financial disclosure
requirements; prohibiting persons not serving on or
employed by the commission from influencing or
attempting to influence commission members and
employees other than through prescribed processes;
providing criminal penalties; providing an effective
date.
Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 11.31, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

11.31 Independent commission on legislative apportionment and congressional redistricting.—

(1)(a) To assist the Legislature in its decennial apportionment of the state into senatorial and representative districts and congressional redistricting, there is created an independent commission on legislative apportionment and congressional redistricting.

(b)(1) The commission shall coordinate the state's decennial legislative apportionment and congressional redistricting activities, including, but not limited to, preparing and proposing reapportionment plans and redistricting plans to the Legislature and conducting public hearings on the proposed plans.

2. Beginning in 2020, and for each decennial period thereafter, commission members must be appointed before January 1, and the first commission meeting must occur before March 1.

(2)(a) The commission shall consist of the following nine members, each of whom must be a registered elector of the state:

1. One member appointed by the President of the Senate.
2. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
3. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

4. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

5. Five members appointed by the Governor:
   a. One of whom must be a registered Republican, as designated on his or her voter registration.
   b. One of whom must be a registered Democrat, as designated on his or her voter registration.
   c. Three of whom must be registered with a minor political party or have no party affiliation, as designated on his or her voter registration.

(b)1. A member must have resided in the state for at least 5 years before appointment to the commission.

2. A member must have registered with his or her political party, or have no party affiliation, for at least 5 years before appointment to the commission.

(c) A commission member may not hold any elected office during his or her service on the commission.

(d) Commission members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061.

(3) The Legislature shall annually appropriate funds to the commission for employing professional staff, procuring office space and necessary equipment, and other expenses necessary for the staff to perform their duties. The
commission's office shall be located in Orange County.

(4)(a) The commission shall conduct public hearings as part of its activities. The commission shall establish and publish in the Florida Administrative Register a schedule of hearings and hearing locations as soon as practicable after its first meeting.

(b) The hearing process shall include hearings to receive public input before the commission draws a redistricting or reapportionment map. The commission shall also conduct hearings following the drawing and display of draft redistricting and reapportionment maps. The commission shall display the draft maps to the public for comment in a timely manner to achieve the widest public dissemination reasonably possible.

(c) As part of the hearing process, the commission shall create and maintain a website through which residents of the state may submit information on behalf of any individual, employee, group, or themselves. The commission shall also implement procedures allowing residents to submit information by regular mail, telephone, and facsimile.

(d) Beginning in 2022, and for each decennial period thereafter, plans developed and approved by the commission shall be transmitted to the Legislature before January 1 to be considered by the Legislature at its next regular session as required by s. 16, Art. III of the State Constitution.

(5) In developing district boundaries, the commission must ensure that plans conform to ss. 20 and 21, Art. III of the
State Constitution.

(6) Commission members and employees are subject to the provisions of chapter 119, relating to public records, and the provisions of chapter 286, relating to public meetings, and shall comply with the applicable financial disclosure requirements of ss. 112.3148 and 112.3149.

(7) Except in the manner provided in subsection (4), it is unlawful for a person not serving on or employed by the commission to influence or attempt to influence a commission member or employee to alter a plan in any way. A person who violates this subsection commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.