

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1414 (Reyes) – As Amended June 18, 2026

Policy Committee:	Elections	Vote:	6 - 1
	Local Government		6 - 2

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill creates a Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) in the County of San Bernardino.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires establishment of the Commission, no later than December 31, 2030, with 14 members who meet specified qualifications, to adjust the boundaries of the county's supervisorial districts after every decennial census following certain criteria and public review procedures, including the translation of materials into applicable languages.
- 2) Outlines the selection process, terms, and conduct for Commission members, such as requiring the political party preferences of the commissioners be as proportional as possible to the total number of county voters registered with each party, or who decline to state or do not indicate a party preference.
- 3) Requires the county to provide for reasonable funding and staffing for the Commission and ensure that a complete and accurate computerized database is available for redistricting.

FISCAL EFFECT:

By requiring San Bernardino County to provide funding and staffing for the creation and operation of the Commission, including specified duties for the county elections official and auditor-controller, this bill likely creates a state-mandated local program. If the Commission on State Mandates (CSM) determines the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service for which the state must reimburse local costs, the county could claim reimbursement from the state. The magnitude of these costs is unknown, but at least in the hundreds of thousands of dollars every ten years (General Fund (GF)).

For reference, the CSM adopted a statewide cost estimate of \$1.2 million one-time GF to reimburse Los Angeles County for costs related SB 958 (Lara), Chapter 781, Statutes of 2016, which established the Citizens Redistricting Commission for Los Angeles County.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

San Bernardino County is one of the most diverse and fastest-growing regions in California, and our communities deserve a redistricting process that is fair, transparent, and rooted in the voices of residents – not politics. This measure will help ensure that every neighborhood has an equitable opportunity to be represented, and that our district lines reflect the people who live here. An independent commission builds trust in our elections and strengthens our democracy for the long term.

- 2) **Background. *Local Redistricting Commissions.*** Prior to 2017, counties and general law cities were able to create advisory redistricting commissions, but were not able to create independent redistricting commissions (IRCs) with the authority to establish district boundaries. Instead, the authority to establish district boundaries for a local jurisdiction was generally held by the governing body of that jurisdiction. SB 1108 (Allen), Chapter 784, Statutes of 2016, permitted a county or a general law city to establish an IRC, subject to certain conditions. Legislation has also been enacted to require specific counties to establish IRCs – the counties of Los Angeles and San Diego had commissions in place for redistricting following the 2020 decennial census and the counties of Riverside, Fresno, Kern, Orange, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, and Merced have commissions in place for redistricting following the 2030 decennial census. This bill adds San Bernardino County to that list for 2030.

AB 764 (Bryan), Chapter 343, Statutes of 2023, the FAIR Maps Act of 2023, made various changes to existing law governing local redistricting generally, applicable to jurisdictions voluntarily establishing their own IRCs. Thus, although there are slight variations between certain provisions, existing statutes creating and governing county-specific IRCs are broadly similar. The IRC proposed by this bill generally follows the model for a county of its population size.

Redistricting in San Bernardino County. In November 2020, San Bernardino County voters approved Measure J, which made various changes to the county’s charter, including requiring the board of supervisors to establish a county redistricting commission by ordinance. In March 2021, the board adopted an ordinance establishing an advisory commission of seven members and five alternates, with one member and alternate from each existing supervisorial district nominated by that district’s supervisor, and the other two members appointed by the presiding judge of the San Bernardino County Superior Court. During the 2021 redistricting process, the advisory commission conducted 16 public meetings, reviewed nine maps, and referred three maps to the board of supervisors, which ultimately adopted one of the maps created at the commission’s discretion with some modifications.

- 3) **Support and Opposition.** This bill is co-sponsored by California Common Cause, Inland Empire United, and the League of Women Voters of California, which argue, “For a county of more than 2.2 million people, the stakes are too high to leave redistricting in the hands of those with a direct political interest in the outcome.” This bill is also supported by ACLU California Action and local community groups.

This bill is opposed by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, which argues this bill “would introduce a complex and costly process that undermines a voter-approved

commission that is currently functioning effectively.” This bill is also opposed by other local government entities, regional business groups, and labor organizations.

- 4) **Prior Legislation.** AB 1248 (Bryan), of the 2023-24 Legislative Session, would have required a city or county with over 300,000 residents or a school district or community college district with over 500,000 residents to establish an IRC. AB 1248 was vetoed by Governor Newsom, who stated, “While I share the author’s goal of ensuring community control over the redistricting process, this bill creates a state-reimbursable mandate in the tens of millions and should therefore be considered in the annual budget process.”

Analysis Prepared by: Irene Ho / APPR. / (916) 319-2081