



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

WILLIAM J. HOWELL
SPEAKER

TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
RULES (CHAIRMAN)

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Statement of Speaker William J. Howell regarding the U.S. Department of Justice's Pre-Clearance of Virginia Redistricting Legislation

-- Redistricting Legislation Passed House with Overwhelming Support Certified --

RICHMOND, VA – Virginia House of Delegates Speaker William J. Howell (R-Stafford) today issued the following statement after the U.S. Department of Justice granted pre-clearance for [House Bill 5005](#), patroned by Delegate Chris Jones (R-Suffolk):

“I’m pleased that the Justice Department recognized that the redistricting plan we developed through a fair and open process meets all the requirements of the Voting Rights Act,” said Howell.

The Virginia General Assembly passed HB 5005 with a strong bi-partisan vote of 80-9 in the House of Delegates after Governor McDonnell’s veto of House Bill 5001 on April 15, 2011. Governor McDonnell expressed his concern with the Senate’s redistricting plan that was appended to HB 5001 by the Senate Democratic majority on a party-line vote of 22-18. Taking into account the concerns of Governor McDonnell, HB 5005 strengthened the original House redistricting plan and included substantial changes to the Senate redistricting map.

All states subject to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 are required to submit redistricting plans to the U.S. Department of Justice or the D.C. Circuit Court for clearance. Certification by either body reaffirms that the redistricting plans contained in HB 5005 meet all legal requirements and comply with the principle of “one person, one vote.”

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