

## S.F. No. 1715 – Redistricting Principles (1<sup>st</sup> Engrossment)

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**S.F. 1715** codifies redistricting principles to be used for legislative and congressional redistricting starting with the 2020 redistricting cycle. Section 1 provides principles for legislative districts and section 2 provides principles for congressional districts. The principles are the same in many instances, but they vary on the principles related to nesting house districts, numbering of districts, and population equality thresholds. Section 3 administrative requirements related to redistricting.

**Section 1 (Legislative redistricting principles)** establishes the principles for redistricting legislative districts. The principles are:

- 1) a house district may not be divided in the formation of a senate district;
- 2) districts must be numbered in the sequence described;
- 3) districts must not deviate by more than two percent from the idea population;
- 4) districts must not be drawn with the purpose or effect of denying or abridging the voting rights of any US citizen on account of race, ethnicity, or membership in a language minority group and must comply with the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the US Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965;
- 5) districts must be convenient, contiguous, and compact;
- 6) political subdivisions must not be divided more than necessary to meet constitutional requirements;
- 7) communities of interest must be preserved where it is possible to do so in compliance with other principles; and
- 8) districts must not be drawn for the purpose of protecting or defeating an incumbent. This criteria is subordinate to all other criteria.

**Section 2 (Congressional redistricting principles)** establishes the principles for redistricting congressional districts. The principles are:

- 1) districts must be numbered in the sequence described;
- 2) districts must be as nearly equal in population as is practicable;
- 3) districts must not be drawn with the purpose or effect of denying or abridging the voting rights of any US citizen on account of race, ethnicity, or membership in a language minority

group and must comply with the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the US Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

- 4) districts must be convenient, contiguous, and compact;
- 5) political subdivisions must not be divided more than necessary to meet constitutional requirements;
- 6) communities of interest must be preserved where it is possible to do so in compliance with other principles; and
- 7) districts must not be drawn for the purpose of protecting or defeating an incumbent. This criteria is subordinate to all other criteria.

**Section 3 (Redistricting plans; data)** provides some administrative requirements related to redistricting. The legislature must use the data provided by the Geographic Information Services (GIS) Office of the Legislative Coordinating Commission. The population counts to be used are from the federal census data. A redistricting plan must not be considered by the legislature until the plan's block equivalency file has been submitted to the GIS office. The GIS Office must publish each plan submitted to it. Publication of each plan must be accompanied the specified reports.

**Section 4 (Effective date)** provides that the act is effective the day following final enactment and applies to any plan enacted or established on or after that date.