

S.F. No. 2308 – Redistricting Principles and Plan Requirements (1st Engrossment)

Author: Senator Jason Isaacson

Prepared by: Alexis C. Stangl, Senate Counsel (651/296-4397)

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Section 1 (Redistricting; Statement of Purpose) states that the Minnesota legislative and congressional districts should be created using a fair and open process. Districts should be as free from political bias as possible. Ideally, districts should be drawn by a commission, but because no commission exists in Minnesota, the principles in section 2 must be used.

Section 2 (Districting principles) sets forth the redistricting principles to be used in the 2020 redistricting cycle for legislative and congressional districts. The principles, in priority order, are as follows:

- 1) districts must be numbered in the sequence described;
- 2) a house district must not be divided in the formation of a senate district;
- 3) districts must not be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or candidate;
- 4) congressional districts must be as nearly equal in population as practicable and legislative districts must be substantially equal in population (no more than one percent deviation from ideal, plus or minus);
- 5) districts must be convenient, contiguous, and compact;
- 6) federally recognized American Indian reservations must not be divided more than necessary to meet constitutional requirements;
- 7) to the extent possible political subdivisions must not be divided;
- 8) districts must not be drawn with the purpose or effect of dispersing or concentrating Black people, Indigenous people, People of Color, or members of a language minority group and must comply with the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965;
- 9) districts must attempt to preserve identifiable communities of interest; and
- 10) districts must attempt to preserve the cores of prior districts to the extent possible.

When it is not possible to fully comply with all the principles, a plan must give priority to the principles in the order in which they are listed, except to the extent that doing so violates state or federal law.

Section 3 (Evaluating maps) prohibits a redistricting plan from being considered by the legislature until the redistricting committee evaluates the plans on the specified measures.

Section 4 (Redistricting; database; reports) specifies that 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 5 (Effective date) provides that this act is effective the day following final enactment and applies to plans drawn on or after that date but before the 2030 census population data is released to the state.