
HOUSE BILL 1121

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunshee, Zeiger, and Morrell

Read first time 01/16/13. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the election of members of the house of
2 representatives from house districts within each legislative district;
3 and amending RCW 44.05.080 and 44.05.090.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 44.05.080 and 2011 c 60 s 42 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 In addition to other duties prescribed by law, the commission
8 shall:

9 (1) Adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act,
10 chapter 34.05 RCW, to carry out the provisions of Article II, section
11 43 of the state Constitution and of this chapter, which rules shall
12 provide that three voting members of the commission constitute a quorum
13 to do business, and that the votes of three of the voting members are
14 required for any official action of the commission;

15 (2) Act as the legislature's recipient of the final redistricting
16 data and maps from the United States Bureau of the Census;

17 (3) Comply with requirements to disclose and preserve public
18 records as specified in chapters 40.14 and 42.56 RCW;

1 (4) Hold open meetings pursuant to the open public meetings act,
2 chapter 42.30 RCW;

3 (5) Prepare and disclose its minutes pursuant to RCW 42.32.030;

4 (6) Be subject to the provisions of RCW 42.17A.700;

5 (7) Prepare and publish a report with the plan; the report will be
6 made available to the public at the time the plan is published. The
7 report will include but will not be limited to: (a) The population and
8 percentage deviation from the average district population for every
9 district, as well as the population and percentage deviation from the
10 average house district population for every house district of a
11 legislative district; (b) an explanation of the criteria used in
12 developing the plan with a justification of any deviation in a district
13 from the average district population, as well as a justification of any
14 deviation in a house district of a legislative district from the
15 average house district population; (c) a map of all the districts that
16 includes the two house districts of each legislative district; and (d)
17 the estimated cost incurred by the counties for adjusting precinct
18 boundaries.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 44.05.090 and 1990 c 126 s 1 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 In the redistricting plan:

22 (1) Districts shall have a population as nearly equal as is
23 practicable, excluding nonresident military personnel, based on the
24 population reported in the federal decennial census. The two house
25 districts of each legislative district must have a population as nearly
26 equal as is practicable, excluding nonresident military personnel,
27 based on the population reported in the federal decennial census.

28 (2) To the extent consistent with subsection (1) of this section
29 the commission plan should, insofar as practical, accomplish the
30 following:

31 (a) District lines, and the lines of the two house districts of
32 each legislative district, should be drawn so as to coincide with the
33 boundaries of local political subdivisions and areas recognized as
34 communities of interest. The number of counties and municipalities
35 divided among more than one district or house district of a legislative
36 district should be as small as possible;

1 (b) Districts and the two house districts of each legislative
2 district should be composed of convenient, contiguous, and compact
3 territory. Land areas may be deemed contiguous if they share a common
4 land border or are connected by a ferry, highway, bridge, or tunnel.
5 Areas separated by geographical boundaries or artificial barriers that
6 prevent transportation within a district or house district should not
7 be deemed contiguous; and

8 (c) Whenever practicable, a precinct shall be wholly within a
9 single legislative district and a single house district of a
10 legislative district.

11 (3) The commission's plan and any plan adopted by the supreme court
12 under RCW 44.05.100(4) shall provide for forty-nine legislative
13 districts.

14 (4) The house of representatives shall consist of ninety-eight
15 members, (~~two~~) each of whom shall be elected from and run at large
16 within a separate house district. Each legislative district shall be
17 divided into two house districts, denoted as house district A and B,
18 with a single member of the house of representatives being elected from
19 each house district. The senate shall consist of forty-nine members,
20 one of whom shall be elected from each legislative district.

21 (5) The commission shall exercise its powers to provide fair and
22 effective representation and to encourage electoral competition. The
23 commission's plan shall not be drawn purposely to favor or discriminate
24 against any political party or group.

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