

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bil Analysis

Bil No. HB 2105

Dividing legislative districts into two subdistricts.

Brief title

Hearing Date 2/26/99

Reps Schmid, and Dunshee

Sponsor (s)

Staff Steve Andin

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7127

BACKGROUND:

State has approved Amendment 74 to the state constitution in 1983 providing for commission redistricting and congressional district redistricting commission created every year in January of each year ending in a one. The Legislature is required to enact legislation implementing the amendment.

Each commission composed of five members. The legislature will have each of the two largest political caucuses in each house of the legislature appoint persons to the commission. The appointments be made by January 31. The five persons appointed by the four appointed by the supreme court takes the appointment of the five persons of the appointment be made by the four members by February 5.

Each commission shall complete redistricting by January of the next year. At least three members of the commission shall approve the redistricting plan. The supreme court shall adopt redistricting plan by April 30 of the year if the commission fails to adopt plan by January.

The legislature may amend the redistricting plan by a two-thirds vote of the members selected in each house with 30 days of the first legislative session occurring after the commission submits plan.

Each district shall have a population including residents and transient persons equal to practical population of each district to the extent a reasonable district shall contain contiguous territory, shall be compact and convenient, shall be separated from adjoining districts by a natural geographic barrier, and shall not be drawn for political or partisan purposes. The commission shall not be drawn for purposes of favoring or discriminating against any political party or group.

Article II, Section 2 of the state constitution provides that the House of Representatives shall be composed of between 63 and 99 members and that the Senate shall be composed of senators not less than thirty

more than half the number of members of the House of Representatives.

Statute provides 49 legislative districts. The Senate shall be composed of 49 members, one elected from each of the 49 legislative districts. The House of Representatives shall be composed of 98 members, two of whom shall be elected from and run at large in each legislative district.

SUMMARY:

The commission required draw two subdistricts in each legislative district denoted as subdistrict A and B, one member of the House of Representatives to be elected from each legislative subdistrict.

The same general requirements for drawing districts apply to drawing subdistricts. The requirement that each subdistrict contain approximately the same population boundaries should be drawn to coincide with the boundaries of public subdivisions. Boundaries should be composed of convenient, compact and contiguous territory.

The two subdistricts in each legislative district shall not have more than one incumbent member of the House of Representatives in a single subdistrict. However, if more than two incumbent members of the House of Representatives in a single legislative district, the commission must draw by lot the names of two of the incumbent legislators in each of the two incumbent legislative districts in separate subdistricts in that legislative district. Residence of members of the House of Representatives for these purposes are the residences designated in their registration on the first day of July in the year when the redistricting required be prepared by the commission.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill passed.