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HOUSE BILL 2068

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State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunshee, D. Schmidt, McMorris and Haigh

Read first time 02/15/1999. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1            AN ACT Relating to the election of members of the house of  
2 representatives from subdistricts within legislative districts;  
3 amending RCW 44.05.020, 44.05.080, and 44.05.090; and providing an  
4 effective date.

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

6            **Sec. 1.** RCW 44.05.020 and 1983 c 16 s 2 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8            The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this  
9 chapter, unless the context requires otherwise.

10            (1) "Chief election officer" means the secretary of state.

11            (2) "Federal census" means the decennial census required by federal  
12 law to be prepared by the United States bureau of the census in each  
13 year ending in zero.

14            (3) "Lobbyist" means an individual required to register with the  
15 Washington public disclosure commission pursuant to RCW 42.17.150.

16            (4) "Plan" means a plan for legislative and congressional  
17 redistricting mandated by Article II, section 43 of the state  
18 Constitution, where each legislative district is divided into two

1 subdistricts, denoted as subdistricts A and B, with a single member of  
2 the house of representatives being elected from each subdistrict.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 44.05.080 and 1983 c 16 s 8 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 In addition to other duties prescribed by law, the commission  
6 shall:

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

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

15 (3) Comply with requirements to disclose and preserve public  
16 records as specified in chapters 40.14 and 42.17 RCW;

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

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

20 (6) Be subject to the provisions of RCW 42.17.240;

21 (7) Prepare and publish a report with the plan; the report will be  
22 made available to the public at the time the plan is published. The  
23 report will include but will not be limited to: (a) The population and  
24 percentage deviation from the average district population for every  
25 district, as well as the population and percentage deviation from the  
26 average subdistrict population for every subdistrict of a legislative  
27 district; (b) an explanation of the criteria used in developing the  
28 plan with a justification of any deviation in a district from the  
29 average district population, as well as a justification of any  
30 deviation in a subdistrict of a legislative district from the average  
31 subdistrict population; (c) a map of all the districts that includes  
32 the two subdistricts of each legislative district; and (d) the  
33 estimated cost incurred by the counties for adjusting precinct  
34 boundaries.

35 **Sec. 3.** RCW 44.05.090 and 1990 c 126 s 1 are each amended to read  
36 as follows:

37 In the redistricting plan:

1 (1) Districts shall have a population as nearly equal as is  
2 practicable, excluding nonresident military personnel, based on the  
3 population reported in the federal decennial census. The two  
4 subdistricts of each legislative district must have a population as  
5 nearly equal as is practicable, excluding nonresident military  
6 personnel, based on the population reported in the federal decennial  
7 census.

8 (2) To the extent consistent with subsection (1) of this section  
9 the commission plan should, insofar as practical, accomplish the  
10 following:

11 (a) District lines, and the lines of the two subdistricts of each  
12 legislative district, should be drawn so as to coincide with the  
13 boundaries of local political subdivisions and areas recognized as  
14 communities of interest. The number of counties and municipalities  
15 divided among more than one district or subdistrict of a legislative  
16 district should be as small as possible;

17 (b) Districts and the two subdistricts of each legislative district  
18 should be composed of convenient, contiguous, and compact territory.  
19 Land areas may be deemed contiguous if they share a common land border  
20 or are connected by a ferry, highway, bridge, or tunnel. Areas  
21 separated by geographical boundaries or artificial barriers that  
22 prevent transportation within a district or subdistrict of a  
23 legislative district should not be deemed contiguous; and

24 (c) Whenever practicable, a precinct shall be wholly within a  
25 single legislative district and a single subdistrict of a legislative  
26 district.

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

30 (4) The house of representatives shall consist of ninety-eight  
31 members, (~~two~~) one of whom shall be elected from and run (~~at large~~)  
32 from a separate subdistrict within each legislative district. The  
33 senate shall consist of forty-nine members, one of whom shall be  
34 elected from each legislative district.

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

1      NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    This act takes effect January 1, 2000.

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