

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5502

C 192 L 19
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Aligning statutory redistricting deadlines to the Constitution.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Zeiger and Hunt; by request of Secretary of State).

Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections
House Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations

Background: The State Redistricting Commission (Commission) was established by constitutional amendment in 1983 to provide for redistricting state legislative and congressional districts every ten years based on the federal decennial census. The Commission is composed of five members. The legislative leaders of each of the two largest political caucuses in each house of the Legislature appoint one person to the Commission. These appointments must be made by January 31st. The fifth person is appointed by the four appointees. The Supreme Court makes the appointment of the fifth person if the appointment is not made by the other four members by February 5th.

Under statute, at least three members of the Commission must approve the redistricting plan by no later than January 1st of each year ending in two. However, in 2016, voters approved Senate Joint Resolution 8210, which requires approval of the redistricting plan under the Washington state Constitution by November 15th of each year ending in one.

Under statute, the Supreme Court must adopt a redistricting plan by March 1st of the year ending in two if the Commission fails to adopt a plan in a timely fashion. Under the Washington state Constitution, if the Commission fails to adopt a plan in a timely fashion, the Supreme Court must adopt a redistricting plan by April 30th of the year ending in two.

Summary: The statutory deadline for the Commission to approve the redistricting plan is moved to November 15th of each year ending in one.

The statutory deadline for the Supreme Court to adopt a redistricting plan, if the Commission fails to adopt a plan in a timely fashion, is moved to April 30th of the year ending in two.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	47	0
House	96	0

Effective: July 28, 2019