
HOUSE BILL 2116

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunshee, Gombosky, Blalock, Murray, Benson and Anderson

Read first time 02/21/97. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

1 AN ACT Relating to legislative districts; and amending RCW
2 44.05.090.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 44.05.090 and 1990 c 126 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 In the redistricting plan based upon the 2000 federal census and
7 thereafter:

8 (1) Legislative districts shall have ((a)) populations as nearly
9 equal as is practicable, excluding nonresident military personnel,
10 based on the population reported in the federal ((decennial)) census.
11 Each legislative district will be divided into two subdistricts, A and
12 B. Subdistricts must have populations as nearly equal as is
13 practicable, excluding nonresident military personnel, based on the
14 population in the federal decennial census.

15 (2) To the extent consistent with subsection (1) of this section
16 the commission plan should, insofar as practical, accomplish the
17 following:

18 (a) District and subdistrict lines should be drawn so as to
19 coincide with the boundaries of local political subdivisions and areas

1 recognized as communities of interest. The number of counties and
2 municipalities divided among more than one district or subdistrict
3 should be as small as possible;

4 (b) Districts and subdistricts should be composed of convenient,
5 contiguous, and compact territory. Land areas may be deemed contiguous
6 if they share a common land border or are connected by a ferry,
7 highway, bridge, or tunnel. Areas separated by geographical boundaries
8 or artificial barriers that prevent transportation within a district or
9 subdistrict should not be deemed contiguous; and

10 (c) Whenever practicable, a precinct shall be wholly within a
11 single legislative district or subdistrict.

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

15 (4) The house of representatives shall consist of ninety-eight
16 members, (~~two of whom shall be elected from and run at large within~~
17 ~~each legislative district~~) each of whom must run from a separate
18 legislative subdistrict. The senate shall consist of forty-nine
19 members, one of whom shall be elected from (~~each~~) a separate
20 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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