
SENATE BILL 6244

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Mullet, and Becker

Read first time 01/10/18. Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

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

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
7 create two house of representatives districts within each senate
8 district. The legislature finds the smaller house of representatives
9 districts will result in representation closer to the people, lessen
10 the influence of money in politics, and lead to greater geographical
11 diversity in representation.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 44.05.080 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 25 s 33 are each
13 amended to read as follows:

14 In addition to other duties prescribed by law, the commission
15 shall:

16 (1) Adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act,
17 chapter 34.05 RCW, to carry out the provisions of Article II, section
18 43 of the state Constitution and of this chapter, which rules shall
19 provide that three voting members of the commission constitute a

1 quorum to do business, and that the votes of three of the voting
2 members are required for any official action of the commission;

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

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

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

9 (5) Prepare and disclose its minutes pursuant to RCW 42.30.035;

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

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

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

27 In the redistricting plan:

28 (1) Districts shall have a population as nearly equal as is
29 practicable, excluding nonresident military personnel, based on the
30 population reported in the federal decennial census. The two house
31 districts of each legislative district must have a population as
32 nearly equal as is practicable, excluding nonresident military
33 personnel, based on the population reported in the federal decennial
34 census.

35 (2) To the extent consistent with subsection (1) of this section
36 the commission plan should, insofar as practical, accomplish the
37 following:

38 (a) District lines, and the lines of the two house districts of
39 each legislative district, should be drawn so as to coincide with the

1 boundaries of local political subdivisions and areas recognized as
2 communities of interest. The number of counties and municipalities
3 divided among more than one district or house district of a
4 legislative district should be as small as possible;

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

12 (c) Whenever practicable, a precinct shall be wholly within a
13 single legislative district and a single house district of a
14 legislative district.

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

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

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

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