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**SENATE BILL 6197**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Braun, Wagoner, and Zeiger

Prefiled 01/09/20. Read first time 01/13/20. 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 2018 c 301 s 10 are each amended to  
13 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 (8) Adopt a districting plan for a noncharter county with a  
26 population of four hundred thousand or more, pursuant to RCW  
27 36.32.054.

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 44.05.090 and 2019 c 456 s 2 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 In the redistricting plan:

31 (1) Districts shall have a population as nearly equal as is  
32 practicable, excluding nonresident military personnel, based on the  
33 population reported in the federal decennial census as adjusted by  
34 RCW 44.05.140. The two house districts of each legislative district  
35 must have a population as nearly equal as is practicable, excluding  
36 nonresident military personnel, based on the population reported in  
37 the federal decennial census.

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

4 (a) District lines, and the lines of the two house districts of  
5 each legislative district, should be drawn so as to coincide with the  
6 boundaries of local political subdivisions and areas recognized as  
7 communities of interest. The number of counties and municipalities  
8 divided among more than one district or house district of a  
9 legislative district should be as small as possible;

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

17 (c) Whenever practicable, a precinct shall be wholly within a  
18 single legislative district and a single house district of a  
19 legislative district.

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

23 (4) The house of representatives shall consist of ninety-eight  
24 members, (~~((two))~~) each of whom shall be elected from and run at large  
25 within (~~(each—legislative)~~) a separate house district. Each  
26 legislative district must be divided into two house districts,  
27 denoted as house district A and B, with a single member of the house  
28 of representatives being elected from each house district. The senate  
29 shall consist of forty-nine members, one of whom shall be elected  
30 from each legislative district.

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

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