
SENATE BILL 5560

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Pedersen, J. Wilson, Billig, Hunt, Kuderer, Mullet, and Randall

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1 AN ACT Relating to procedures for approval and submission of the
2 redistricting plan; amending RCW 44.05.020, 44.05.080, and 44.05.100;
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 44.05.020 and 2011 c 60 s 41 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

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

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

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

13 (3) "Lobbyist" means an individual required to register with the
14 Washington public disclosure commission pursuant to RCW 42.17A.600.

15 (4) "Plan" means a plan for legislative and congressional
16 redistricting mandated by Article II, section 43 of the state
17 Constitution, which must include at least: (a) Maps showing the
18 division of the state into congressional and legislative districts;
19 and (b) complete descriptions of each district using official census
20 units, such as tracts and blocks, sufficient to codify the plan.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 44.05.080 and 2018 c 301 s 10 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 In addition to other duties prescribed by law, the commission
4 shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (7) Prepare and publish a report with the plan; the report will
20 be made available to the public at the time the plan is (~~published~~)
21 submitted to the legislature. The report will include but will not be
22 limited to: (a) The population and percentage deviation from the
23 average district population for every district; (b) an explanation of
24 the criteria used in developing the plan with a justification of any
25 deviation in a district from the average district population; (c) a
26 map of all the districts; and (d) the estimated cost incurred by the
27 counties for adjusting precinct boundaries;

28 (8) Adopt a districting plan for a noncharter county with a
29 population of four hundred thousand or more, pursuant to RCW
30 36.32.054.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 44.05.100 and 2019 c 192 s 1 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) The commission must make a redistricting plan publicly
34 available at least 72 hours before voting to approve the plan. Once
35 the plan has been made publicly available, any amendments to the plan
36 must be debated and voted on in open session, and at least 24 hours
37 must pass after any amendments are adopted before the commission may
38 vote on final approval of the plan. Upon approval of ((~~a~~
39 ~~redistricting~~)) the plan by three of the voting members of the

1 commission, but not later than November 15th of the year ending in
2 one, the commission shall submit the plan and the report required
3 under RCW 44.05.080(7) to the legislature.

4 (2) After submission of the plan by the commission, the
5 legislature shall have the next thirty days during any regular or
6 special session to amend the commission's plan. If the legislature
7 amends the commission's plan the legislature's amendment must be
8 approved by an affirmative vote in each house of two-thirds of the
9 members elected or appointed thereto, and may not include more than
10 two percent of the population of any legislative or congressional
11 district.

12 (3) The plan approved by the commission, with any amendment
13 approved by the legislature, shall be final upon approval of such
14 amendment or after expiration of the time provided for legislative
15 amendment by subsection (2) of this section whichever occurs first,
16 and shall constitute the districting law applicable to this state for
17 legislative and congressional elections, beginning with the next
18 elections held in the year ending in two. This plan shall be in force
19 until the effective date of the plan based upon the next succeeding
20 federal decennial census or until a modified plan takes effect as
21 provided in RCW 44.05.120(6).

22 (4) If three of the voting members of the commission fail to
23 approve and submit a plan within the time limitations provided in
24 subsection (1) of this section, the supreme court shall adopt a plan
25 by April 30th of the year ending in two. Any such plan approved by
26 the court is final and constitutes the districting law applicable to
27 this state for legislative and congressional elections, beginning
28 with the next election held in the year ending in two. This plan
29 shall be in force until the effective date of the plan based on the
30 next succeeding federal decennial census or until a modified plan
31 takes effect as provided in RCW 44.05.120(6).

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act applies prospectively only and
33 not retroactively. It applies only to plans or portions of plans due
34 to be submitted to the legislature by a redistricting commission
35 after the effective date of this section.

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