

Subject State Legislative Redistricting

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Overview

This bill adopts a new plan for state legislative districts, to be effective for the 2022 state general election cycle and thereafter. The plan would fulfill the requirement of the Minnesota Constitution that a new set of districts be enacted by the legislature following each decennial census.

Technical and conforming changes related to adoption of this redistricting plan are also included in the bill.

Details about each individual district, including maps, can be found on the website of the Legislative Coordinating Commission, here:
<https://gis.lcc.mn.gov/redist2020/plans.html>.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Legislative districts.
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Enacts legislative redistricting plan L2101-0 as the district plan for both state senate and state house districts effective for the 2022 election cycle and beyond. The plan is as published on the website of the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) on November 19, 2021. Visual maps showing detailed boundaries for each district can be found on that website.

Overall, the districts contained in the plan reflect the following features, which are reflected in the statistical reports corresponding to each district that are also published on the website of the LCC:

Population. Consistent with principles of constitutional law, districts must be substantially equal in population.

In this proposed plan, the populations across districts are as follows:

Section Description

State House Districts:

Ideal Population: 42,586

Maximum deviations from the ideal: -0.87% (-369 persons) /+0.87% (367 persons)

State Senate Districts:

Ideal Population: 85,172

Maximum deviations from the ideal: -0.72% (-615 persons) /+0.84% (718 persons)

Convenient, contiguous territory. The Minnesota Constitution requires that senate districts be comprised of “convenient, contiguous” territory.

Statistical measures of compactness and contiguity for each district are available on the website of the LCC. The concept of “convenience” is not a statistical measure. All districts are comprised of fully contiguous territory.

District “nesting.” The Minnesota Constitution requires that state representative districts must not be divided in the formation of state senate districts (in other words, representative districts must “nest” completely within a senate district).

In this proposed plan, each senate district consists of two fully nested representative districts.

District numbering. The Minnesota Constitution requires that districts be numbered in a regular series.

In this proposed plan, districts are numbered beginning with Senate District 1 and House District 1A in the northwest corner of the state, proceeding across the state from west to east, and north to south, to Senate District 67 and representative district 67B in the southeast corner of the state.

Minority communities. Principles of federal constitutional law and the federal Voting Rights Act require attentiveness to the impact of district design on the voting power of racial and language minority communities.

In this proposed plan, there are 21 representative districts and 10 senate districts that are classified as “minority opportunity” districts. A minority opportunity district is classified in this plan as a district in which at least 30% of the total voting age population identifies as a member of a minority community. There are no districts in which a single minority group is a majority of the total voting age population of the district.

Section **Description**

Tribal reservations. A principle recommended for enactment by the Redistricting Committee limits the division of federally recognized American Indian Tribal reservations, except in limited circumstances.

A statistical report showing Tribal reservations that are split in the creation of a district is available on the website of the LCC.

Political subdivisions. A principle recommended for enactment by the Redistricting Committee in October requires that the division of counties, cities, school districts, and towns be minimized, in circumstances where a division would disproportionately dilute the influence of that subdivision in the political process. This principle would not apply if compliance would create a conflict with other redistricting principles that are given greater priority in the committee's recommendation.

Statistical measures showing political subdivisions that are split in the creation of a district are available on the website of the LCC.

2 **Distribution.**

Eliminates a requirement that the revisor of statutes code a metes and bounds description of each legislative and congressional district into the Minnesota Statutes. The codification of a metes and bounds description is replaced with a new requirement that a plan components report, or an equivalent report, be made available and published on the website of the LCC. Specific detail about the contents of these reports is provided in the bill.

Existing requirements that enacted plans be deposited with the secretary of state, and distributed further by the secretary, remain unchanged.

3 **Repealer.**

Repeals sections of law enacted in 2013 that adjusted boundaries between existing House Districts 39A and 39B, and House Districts 49A and 49B. Those boundary adjustments are superseded by the district plan proposed in this bill.

4 **Effective date.**

Provides that this act is effective and applies to districts for offices to be elected at the 2022 state general election and thereafter.



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