

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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This bill establishes statutory principles to be used in the redistricting process for both congressional districts and state legislative districts.

The details of the principles are provided in the bill, and are listed in priority order for implementation. The principles include a requirement that legislative districts be substantially equal in population, with a deviation of no more than 0.5 percent from the ideal district population (the ideal population is determined based on the results of the decennial census). The bill requires that the legislature draw new districts, and prohibits delegation of that authority to any entity that is not comprised solely of members of the legislature.

The principles contained in this bill are similar in concept to those ordered by the Minnesota Supreme Court's Special Redistricting Panel in 2011, except that in the panel's order the population deviation allowance for legislative districts was +/- 2 percent, and the panel included a principle prohibiting districts drawn for the purpose of protecting or defeating an incumbent.

The actual population deviation in the redistricting plan ordered by the Special Redistricting Panel in 2012 for legislative districts was within +/- 1 percent of the population ideal, for both House and Senate districts.