



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 402**

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**Hearing Date:** February 1, 2007  
**Committee On:** Executive Board

**Introducer(s):** (Schimek, 27)  
**Title:** Adopt the Redistricting Act

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

- X Advanced to General File
  - Advanced to General File with Amendments
  - Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

6	Yes	Senators Preister, Chambers, Janssen, Kopplin, McDonald, and Stuthman
3	No	Senators Engel, Erdman and Flood
0	Present, not voting	
0	Absent	

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**Proponents:**

Senator DiAnna Schimek  
Jack Gould  
Laurel Marsh

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Common Cause NE  
American Civil Liberties Union, Nebraska

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

Bob Twiss

**Representing:**

Self

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

**Section-by-section summary:**

**Section 1.** Title of the act will be the “Redistricting Act.”

**Section 2.** Definition section.

**Section 3.** Establishes the Redistricting Committee of the Legislature. The Committee shall be comprised of nine members of the Legislature, three from each congressional district, with no more than five members from the same political party. The Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Board in January of each year ending in zero.

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The members of the Committee shall select its chairperson and vice-chairperson from the members of the Committee.

The Committee shall continue to exist throughout the redistricting process and shall be reconstituted in the event of a successful legal challenge.

**Section 4.** The Committee is responsible for administering the Redistricting Act, including preparing substantive and procedural guidelines, to be presented to the Legislature for approval.

**Section 5.** The Redistricting Committee shall introduce legislative bills pertaining to redistricting congressional districts and other districts during the first ten days of the legislative session of each year ending in one, to be amended later in the session with redistricting plans. The committee shall introduce the redistricting plans as amendments to the redistricting bills.

**Section 6.** All districts shall be established on the basis of population and in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution. The population shall be as nearly equal as practicable to the ideal population for such district.

No congressional district shall have a population which causes a plan to have a relative deviation in excess of plus or minus one-half percent, based on the ideal district population. No other district shall have a population which causes a plan to have a relative deviation in excess of the guidelines established by the committee.

County lines shall be followed whenever practicable for boundaries in all districts and to the greatest extent possible, the boundaries shall coincide with the boundaries of cities and villages.

The division of counties, cities, and villages shall be as small as possible. If they must be divided, the division shall be made along clearly recognizable physical features.

Congressional and other districts shall be composed of contiguous and compact territories.

No congressional or other district may be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, an incumbent, or any other person or group or which results in the unlawful dilution of the voting strength of a language or racial minority group.

The following data shall not be used in establishing congressional or other districts: Addresses, political affiliation and demographic information.

**Section 7.** The Director of the Legislative Audit and Office is given the responsibility to acquire information, review and evaluate available facilities, and develop programs and procedures for preparing redistricting plans on the basis of each federal decennial census. The director is also designated to receive information from the U.S. Bureau of Census.

**Section 8.** The Director shall compile statistics, redraw congressional and other district boundaries and prepare redistricting plans and maps. After receiving the redistricting plans, the committee makes them available to the Legislature and the public.

The redistricting plans shall include copies of the amendments, maps and a statement that includes ideal population, the population of each district created by the redrawn district and the percentage deviation from the ideal population.

The Director may provide only such information regarding the redistricting plan as may be required by policies agreed upon by the committee.

**Section 9.** The committee shall conduct at least one public hearing in each congressional district. Following the public hearings, the committee prepares a report summarizing information and testimony, including comments and conclusions which the committee members deem appropriate based on the information and testimony received.

**Section 10.** After the committee's report is submitted, the Speaker of the Legislature is to bring the redistricting bills to a vote expeditiously. No amendments shall be permitted, other than amendments introduced by the committee which contain the redistricting plans or those of a purely corrective nature.

If any of the redistricting bills fails to advance from General File, the Clerk of the Legislature informs the Director of Research that it did not advance and the reasons why. The Director of Research then prepares an amendment containing a second redistricting plan, taking into account the reasons cited by the Clerk. Time lines are set out in this section for the delivery of the amendment to the Speaker and for the scheduling of a vote on such amendment.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

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**Senator L. Patrick Engel, Chairperson**