

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 107

Introduced by McCollister, 20; DeBoer, 10; Vargas, 7.

Read first time January 07, 2021

Committee: Executive Board

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to redistricting; to adopt the Redistricting

2 Act; and to declare an emergency.

3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 8 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the Redistricting Act.

3 Sec. 2. For purposes of the Redistricting Act:

4 (1) Committee means the Redistricting Committee of the Legislature;

5 (2) Corrective amendment means an amendment which corrects a
6 technical error but does not substantially alter the boundary lines; and

7 (3) Director means the Director of Research of the office of
8 Legislative Research or his or her designee.

9 Sec. 3. The purpose of the Redistricting Act is to establish
10 procedures to divide the State of Nebraska into districts by designating
11 boundary lines based on population for the election or appointment of
12 representatives from the State of Nebraska to the United States House of
13 Representatives, judges of the Supreme Court, and members of the
14 Legislature, the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the
15 Public Service Commission, and the State Board of Education. The
16 districts shall be established by maps incorporated by reference into
17 legislation enacted by the Legislature.

18 Sec. 4. (1) The chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the
19 committee shall be elected by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds
20 of the members of the committee.

21 (2) The maps to be established under the Redistricting Act shall be
22 drawn using politically neutral criteria. The maps and districts shall be
23 drawn:

24 (a) With equality of population, subject to a population deviation
25 of plus or minus one percent or less; and

26 (b) Resulting in contiguous districts.

27 (3) It is the intent of the Legislature that the maps and districts
28 are drawn:

29 (a) Without consideration of the political affiliation of residents
30 or registered voters;

31 (b) Without consideration of the previous voting data of residents

1 or registered voters;

2 (c) Using only data and demographic information from the United
3 States Bureau of the Census; and

4 (d) With deference to county and municipal boundary lines when
5 appropriate.

6 (4) In drawing boundaries for legislative districts, no
7 consideration shall be given to the political affiliation of residents or
8 registered voters, demographic information other than population figures,
9 or the results of previous elections, except as may be required by
10 federal law and the Constitution of the United States.

11 Sec. 5. The legislative bills incorporating the initial version of
12 the maps shall not be placed on the agenda for General File consideration
13 until fourteen calendar days after the last public hearing held pursuant
14 to section 6 of this act.

15 Sec. 6. The committee shall distribute the federal decennial census
16 data received from the United States Bureau of the Census and make the
17 maps received from the director available to the public. The committee
18 shall conduct at least one public hearing in each congressional district
19 to receive public comment on the maps.

20 Sec. 7. No changes other than corrective amendments shall be
21 allowed to the initial version of the maps to be established under the
22 Redistricting Act or the legislative bills incorporating the maps.

23 Sec. 8. If the Legislature fails to enact legislation to provide
24 for district boundaries for any entity listed in section 3 of this act
25 prior to adjournment of the legislative session, the Governor shall call
26 a special session within thirty days after the adjournment sine die of
27 such legislative session and the director and the committee shall begin
28 with a new initial version of the map during the special session and
29 otherwise comply with the Redistricting Act.

30 Sec. 9. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
31 passed and approved according to law.