

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

This joint resolution would establish principles for redistricting the legislature and the state's congressional seats. Under joint rule 2.07, a joint resolution, after its passage by the legislature, is presented to the governor for approval.

#### Section

- 1 **Number of districts.** Provides that the house and senate would have the same number of members they have now. Provides that there will be eight congressional districts, which is the same number Minnesota has now.
- 2 **Nesting.** Provides that house districts will be nested within senate districts.
- 3 **Equal population.** (a) Provides that legislative districts must be substantially equal in population. Permits deviations of plus or minus .75 percent. Specifies that the ideal population of a house district is 36,713 and that the ideal population of a senate district is 73,425.  
(b) Provides that congressional districts must be as nearly equal in population as practicable. Provides that the ideal population of a congressional district is 614,935.
- 4 **Contiguity; compactness.** Provides that districts must be of convenient, contiguous territory. Provides that they must be compact to the extent consistent with the other principles. Specifies when contiguity by water is sufficient.
- 5 **Minority representation.** (a) States that dilution of racial or ethnic minority voting strength is contrary to state and federal law and to public policy. Provides that the principles in this resolution must not be construed as purporting to supercede the federal Voting Rights Act.  
(b) Provides that a redistricting plan must not have the intent or effect of dispersing or concentrating minority population in a way that prevents minority communities from electing candidates of their choice.
- 6 **Preserving communities of interest.** Provides that districts should attempt to preserve

identifiable communities of interest where this can be done in compliance with the principles listed above. Defines the term "community of interest."

- 7 **Political competitiveness.** Provides that the districts must not be created to unduly favor any political party.
- 8 **Numbering.** Specifies how districts are to be numbered.
- 9 **Noncontiguous portions of minor civil districts.** Provides that where local governmental units are noncontiguous, splitting those units is not considered a split under certain circumstances.
- 10 **Data to be used.** Provides that the geographic areas and population counts used in redistricting plans must be those used by the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) office. Provides that the population counts must be those provided by the U.S. Census Bureau under Public Law 94-171, including any corrections issued by the Bureau.
- 11 **Data ready; plans posted.** Provides that the director of the G.I.S. office must notify the house and senate when the G.I.S. database is ready. Provides that a redistricting plan must not be considered by the house or senate until that notification has been given and an electronic file showing the district to which each census block is assigned by the plan has been filed with the director of the G.I.S. office.
- 12 **Priority.** States that redistricting plans must give priority to principles 1 to 7 of this resolution in the order in which they are listed.
- 13 **Expiration.** Provides that this resolution expires December 31, 2002.