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Overview

This bill establishes statutory principles to be used in the redistricting of congressional and legislative districts and establishes a commission of five retired judges to propose redistricting plans for approval by the legislature.

Section

1 **Number of members.** 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 substantive principles are similar in concept to those ordered by the Minnesota Supreme Court's Special Redistricting Panel in 2011, except that the principles contained in this bill include a requirement that districts be created to encourage political competitiveness. Political competitiveness was not a principle used by the Redistricting Panel in 2011.

2 **Redistricting commission.** Establishes a commission of five retired judges to draw new legislative and congressional districts following each decennial census. The commission is required to use the principles established in section 1 of the bill in drawing the districts.

Appointment of commissioners. One member of the commission is appointed by each of the four legislative leaders: the speaker of the house, the minority leader of the house, the majority leader of the senate, and the minority leader of the senate. The fifth member must be appointed by the four legislative appointees. Appointees must be retired district or appellate judges who have not held a partisan office or position. While serving on the commission, the

retired judges are considered judicial officers and must abide by the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Public hearings and plan submissions. The commission must hold at least three public hearings in different geographic regions of the state and is required to adopt a schedule for interested persons to submit proposed plans and to respond to plans submitted by others.

The commission is required to submit a plan for new district boundaries by April 30 of each year ending in one, which may be either enacted or rejected by the legislature (but may not be modified). If a plan is rejected, the commission is required to submit a second plan on a schedule set in the bill. The second plan similarly may be enacted or rejected, but not modified, by the legislature.

If a second plan is rejected, the commission must submit a third plan. The third plan submitted by the commission may be enacted, rejected, or modified by the legislature.

Legislative approval. In all cases, any plan for districts proposed by the commission would still require legislative approval.

- 3** **Repealer.** Repeals an existing section of statute requiring that the legislature be apportioned into districts. This language is recodified in section 1 of the bill.