

**Subject** Redistricting Advisory Commission

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## Overview

This bill establishes a Redistricting Advisory Commission to submit recommended legislative and congressional redistricting plans for approval by the legislature following each decennial census. The work of the commission is advisory only.

The bill also establishes a series of principles that must be used in drawing district boundaries.

The Minnesota Constitution requires that the legislature adopt new congressional and legislative districts following each decennial census. The next decennial census will occur in 2020; redistricting plans are expected to be adopted by the legislature no later than February 2022.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<p><b>Redistricting Advisory Commission.</b> Establishes a Redistricting Advisory Commission.</p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Commission membership; duties.</b> Establishes a redistricting advisory commission in each year ending in -1, for the purpose of recommending boundaries for legislative and congressional districts in the state. The commission consists of five retired appellate or district court judges who have not served in a party-designated or party-endorsed position.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Appointment.</b> Establishes a procedure for appointing members of the Redistricting Advisory Commission. One member each is appointed by the majority leader of the senate, the minority leader of the senate, the speaker of the house, and the minority leader of the house. If an appointing authority fails to make an appointment, the chief justice of the supreme court must appoint a person to fill the vacant position. A fifth judge must be chosen by the four legislatively-appointed members. Additional details and deadlines for appointment are provided in this subdivision.</p>

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	<p><b>Subd. 3. Code of conduct.</b> In conducting their work, members of the Redistricting Advisory Commission are subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct and are considered judicial officers.</p>
	<p><b>Subd. 4. Removal; filling vacancies.</b> A member of the advisory commission may only be removed for reasons that would justify a recall of a state elected official (serious malfeasance or nonfeasance in the performance of duties, or conviction for a serious crime).</p> <p>Vacancies must be filled by the original appointing authority within 30 days after the vacancy occurs.</p>
	<p><b>Subd. 5. Lobbyist registration.</b> Provides that the commission’s work qualifies as “administrative action” for purposes of Minnesota’s lobbyist registration law. This designation means that individuals appearing before the commission must register as a lobbyist with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board if they meet certain income or expenditure thresholds related to their work.</p>
	<p><b>Subd. 6. Compensation and expenses.</b> The commission may approve a \$55 per day per diem rate, plus expense reimbursements, for members on the same terms as other similar state boards and commissions.</p>
	<p><b>Subd. 7. Plans submitted to commission.</b> Requires the commission to adopt a schedule for interested persons to submit proposed redistricting plans and to respond to plans proposed by others. The commission must also adopt standards governing the format of plans. The schedule and standards are not subject to the administrative rulemaking requirements of state law.</p>
	<p><b>Subd. 8. Public hearings; preliminary drafts.</b> Requires the commission to conduct at least one public hearing in each congressional district before adopting its first plan. A preliminary draft of a plan must be posted online at least one week before a hearing.</p>
	<p><b>Subd. 9. Deadlines.</b> Establishes detailed deadlines and requirements for the commission to complete its work. Recommended plans must be submitted to the legislature by April 30 of the year ending in -1. A series of additional steps are required if the legislature fails to approve an initial plan recommended by the commission.</p>
	<p><b>Subd. 10. Expiration.</b> Provides that the commission expires upon enactment of plans—by law, or by court order—and resolution of any legal challenges to those plans. A court may order the creation of a new commission if subsequent legal challenges arise.</p>

Section	Description
2	<p data-bbox="354 275 613 302"><b>Districting principles.</b></p> <p data-bbox="354 317 1419 415">Establishes statutory principles for use by the Redistricting Advisory Commission and others in proposing new boundaries for legislative and congressional districts. In general, the principles are listed in priority order for implementation.</p> <p data-bbox="453 457 1382 520"><b>Subd. 1. Application.</b> Provides that the principles apply to both legislative and congressional districts.</p> <p data-bbox="453 562 1425 590"><b>Subd. 2. Population equality.</b> Establishes equal population standards for districts.</p> <p data-bbox="453 632 1425 695"><b>Subd. 3. Minority representation.</b> Provides standards for how a redistricting plan may impact minority communities.</p> <p data-bbox="453 737 1425 905"><b>Subd. 4. Contiguity; compactness.</b> Provides standards to ensure all the territory in a district is contiguous (the boundaries establish a single, whole shape for each district that can be traveled conveniently) and compact (a district must be roughly a distinct, recognizably-solid shape—a district with an odd or meandering shape generally is not compact).</p> <p data-bbox="453 947 1354 1010"><b>Subd. 5. Political subdivisions.</b> Provides standards related to the division of political subdivisions in creating districts.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1052 1425 1150"><b>Subd. 6. Communities of interest.</b> Provides standards related to the preservation of identifiable communities of interest, when possible. Examples of common similarities that might establish a community of interest are provided.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1192 1409 1255"><b>Subd. 7. Cores of prior districts.</b> Requires that new districts attempt to preserve the cores of prior districts, when possible.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1297 1382 1360"><b>Subd. 8. Political parties.</b> Prohibits a plan from being drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1402 1403 1528"><b>Subd. 9. Incumbents.</b> Prohibits a plan from being drawn for the purpose of protecting or defeating an incumbent officeholder, when possible. All other principles must be considered first, before conducting an incumbent protection analysis.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1570 1382 1633"><b>Subd. 10. Competition.</b> Requires districts to encourage electoral competition, when possible. Standards for determining competitiveness are provided.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1675 1377 1774"><b>Subd. 11. Proportionality.</b> Requires the statewide proportion of districts that favor a political party to reasonably correspond to election results from the previous ten years, when possible.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1816 1414 1879"><b>Subd. 12. Numbering.</b> Establishes a scheme for identifying each district's district number.</p>

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3	<p data-bbox="453 275 1409 338"><b>Subd. 13. Priority of principles.</b> Establishes that the principles of this section are listed in priority order, if it is not possible to fully comply with all of them.</p> <p data-bbox="355 390 971 422"><b>Legislative Coordinating Commission; redistricting.</b></p> <p data-bbox="355 436 1390 499">Establishes duties for the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) in the redistricting process.</p> <p data-bbox="453 537 1365 600"><b>Subd. 1. Administrative support.</b> Requires the LCC to provide administrative support to the Redistricting Advisory Commission.</p> <p data-bbox="453 638 1422 743"><b>Subd. 2. Database.</b> Requires the datasets used in redistricting to correspond to those used by the LCC, including population counts provided by the United States Census Bureau.</p> <p data-bbox="453 781 1406 917"><b>Subd. 3. Partisan index.</b> Requires the Geographic Information Services Office of the LCC to establish an index of partisan election results during the previous ten years, to assist in measuring the partisanship of a plan. Consultation with the legislature’s caucus leaders is required.</p> <p data-bbox="453 955 1382 1089"><b>Subd. 4. Publication; consideration of plans.</b> Requires certain technical information to be submitted to the GIS Office of the LCC before a redistricting plan can be considered for adoption by the house of representatives or the senate.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1127 1422 1331"><b>Subd. 5. Reports.</b> Provides the detailed data that must be provided in a number of summary reports that are prepared in conjunction with maps showing district boundaries. These reports generally summarize data that may be used to determine whether a redistricting plan complies with the principles required to be used in creating a plan. The specific principles required are established earlier in this bill.</p>



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