

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to redistricting; requiring districts to be numbered in a regular series;
1.3 establishing districting principles; specifying requirements related to the use of
1.4 United States Census data; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 2.031, by
1.5 adding a subdivision; 2.731; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,
1.6 chapter 2.

1.7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 2.031, is amended by adding a subdivision
1.9 to read:

1.10 Subd. 3. **Numbering.** Legislative districts must be numbered in a regular series, beginning
1.11 with house district 1A in the northwest corner of the state and proceeding across the state
1.12 from west to east, north to south. In a county that includes more than one whole senate
1.13 district, the districts must be numbered consecutively.

1.14 Sec. 2. **[2.035] DISTRICTING PRINCIPLES.**

1.15 Subdivision 1. **Application.** This section applies to congressional and legislative districts
1.16 adopted for use at the 2022 state primary and general elections and thereafter.

1.17 Subd. 2. **Impact on political parties, candidates, and incumbents.** Districts must not
1.18 be drawn to purposely favor or disfavor a political party, candidate, or incumbent.

1.19 Subd. 3. **Priority of principles.** Districts must be drawn in accordance with the principles
1.20 listed in this section. If districts cannot be drawn fully in accordance with all principles,
1.21 priority must be given to the principles in the order in which they are listed, except when
1.22 doing so would violate federal or state law.

2.1 Subd. 4. **Nesting.** A senate district must consist of two whole representative districts,
2.2 labeled "A" and "B," respectively.

2.3 Subd. 5. **Population equality.** (a) Each congressional district must be as nearly equal
2.4 in population as practicable.

2.5 (b) Each legislative district must be substantially equal in population. The population
2.6 deviation goal for each legislative district is less than one percent, plus or minus, from the
2.7 population of the ideal district. The maximum permissible deviation for a legislative district
2.8 is two percent, plus or minus, from the population of the ideal district.

2.9 Subd. 6. **Minority representation.** Districts must comply with the Fourteenth and
2.10 Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965,
2.11 as amended. Consistent with those laws:

2.12 (1) districts must preserve the equal opportunity of racial, ethnic, and language minorities
2.13 to participate in the political process and to elect candidates of their choice, whether alone
2.14 or in coalition with others; and

2.15 (2) districts must provide racial minorities and language minorities who constitute less
2.16 than a voting-age majority of a district with an opportunity to substantially influence the
2.17 outcome of an election.

2.18 Subd. 7. **Preservation of communities.** Districts must minimize the division of
2.19 identifiable communities of interest. A community of interest may include a racial, ethnic,
2.20 or linguistic group or any group with shared experiences or concerns, including, but not
2.21 limited to, geographic, regional, social, cultural, historic, socioeconomic, occupational,
2.22 trade, or transportation interests. Communities of interest do not include relationships with
2.23 political parties, incumbents, or candidates. A political subdivision is not, by itself, a
2.24 community of interest.

2.25 Subd. 8. **Tribal reservations.** Federally-recognized American Indian tribal reservations
2.26 may only be divided if:

2.27 (1) the division occurs because a portion of the reservation is not contiguous with another
2.28 portion of the reservation; or

2.29 (2) despite the division, the known population of the reservation remains wholly located
2.30 within a single district.

2.31 Subd. 9. **Compact and contiguous districts.** Each district must be compact and
2.32 contiguous. More than one measure must be used to evaluate the compactness of a district.

3.1 Contiguity by water is sufficient if the water is not a serious obstacle to travel within the
3.2 district. A district with areas that touch only at a point is not contiguous.

3.3 Subd. 10. **Preservation of political subdivisions.** Districts must minimize the division
3.4 of counties, cities, school districts, and towns in circumstances where a division
3.5 disproportionately dilutes the influence of an impacted county, city, school district, or town
3.6 in the political process.

3.7 **Sec. 3. [2.036] REDISTRICTING; DATA REQUIREMENTS.**

3.8 Subdivision 1. **Application.** This section applies to congressional and legislative districts
3.9 adopted for use at the 2022 state primary and general elections and thereafter.

3.10 Subd. 2. **Data to be used.** The geographic areas and population counts used in maps,
3.11 tables, and legal descriptions of legislative and congressional districts must be those used
3.12 by the Geographic Information Services (GIS) Office of the Legislative Coordinating
3.13 Commission. The population counts must be the block population counts provided to the
3.14 state under Public Law 94-171 after each decennial census, subject to correction of any
3.15 errors acknowledged by the United States Census Bureau. The GIS Office must make this
3.16 data available to the public on its website.

3.17 Subd. 3. **Consideration of plans.** A redistricting plan must not be considered by the
3.18 senate or house of representatives until the plan's block equivalency file has been submitted
3.19 to the GIS Office in a form prescribed by the GIS Office. The block equivalency file must
3.20 show the district to which each census block has been assigned. The GIS Office must publish
3.21 each plan submitted to it on the office's website.

3.22 **Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 2.731, is amended to read:**

3.23 **2.731 NUMBER OF DISTRICTS.**

3.24 The state of Minnesota is divided into eight congressional districts, each of which is
3.25 entitled to elect one representative to the Congress of the United States of America.
3.26 Congressional district numbers must begin with the first district in the southeast corner of
3.27 the state and end with the district with the highest number in the northeast corner of the
3.28 state.

3.29 **Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION.**

3.30 This act is effective the day following final enactment and, except where otherwise
3.31 provided, applies to districts adopted on or after that date.