

HOUSE BILL No. 2456

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

3-9

1 AN ACT concerning reapportionment; relating to congressional, state
2 senatorial, representative and board of education districts; imposing
3 requirements for the drawing thereof.
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. The provisions of sections 1 through 4, and amendments
7 thereto, shall apply to any bill proposing a reapportionment plan for
8 United States congressional districts, state senatorial or representative
9 districts or state board of education districts.

10 Sec. 2. No district may be drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a
11 political party. No reapportionment plan shall have the purpose or effect of
12 favoring or disfavoring a political party.

13 Sec. 3. When drawing any reapportionment plan the legislature shall
14 comply with the following:

15 (a) The basis for the reapportionment plan shall be the most recent
16 official United States decennial census, and all voting districts, tracts,
17 block groups and blocks referred to in such plan shall mean the voting
18 district, tract, block group or block identified on the most recent official
19 United States decennial census;

20 (b) (1) all state senatorial, representative and board of education
21 districts shall be numerically as equal in population as practicable within
22 the limitations of census geography and taking into account all other
23 conditions set forth in this section. Deviations shall not exceed plus or
24 minus 5% of the ideal population for each district; and

25 (2) all congressional districts shall be numerically as equal in
26 population as possible;

27 (c) reapportionment plans shall not have the purpose or effect of
28 diluting minority voting strength; and

29 (d) subject to subsection (b):

30 (1) Districts shall be contiguous and as compact as possible, taking
31 into account all other conditions set forth in this section;

32 (2) because county boundaries are meaningful and counties
33 historically have been significant political units, county boundaries shall
34 be respected to the extent practicable;

35 (3) communities of interest, including social, cultural, racial, ethnic
36 and economic interests common to the population of an area that are

1 probable subjects of legislation, shall be considered. Political party
2 membership and partisan considerations shall not constitute a community
3 of interest. The core of existing districts and the integrity and priority of
4 existing political subdivisions shall be preserved when considering
5 communities of interest to the extent possible, taking into account all other
6 conditions set forth in this section. It is recognized that some communities
7 of interest may be more readily accommodated than others, but the
8 legislature shall attempt to accommodate communities of interest
9 articulated by the residents of such area;

10 (4) districts shall be drawn to avoid contests between incumbents to
11 the extent possible, taking into account all other conditions set forth in this
12 section; and

13 (5) districts shall be easily understandable to voters.

14 Sec. 4. Any party aggrieved by a reappointment plan that does not
15 comply with section 2 or 3, and amendments thereto, may file an original
16 action in the supreme court pursuant to K.S.A. 20-101a, and amendments
17 thereto, or may participate as an intervenor party in any action pending
18 before the supreme court relating to the legality of a reappointment plan.
19 The supreme court may order such relief as may be necessary and proper
20 to correct noncompliance with sections 2 or 3, and amendments thereto.

21 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
22 publication in the statute book.