

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 107**

Introduced by McCollister, 20; DeBoer, 10; Vargas, 7.

Read first time January 07, 2021

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to redistricting; to adopt the Redistricting
- 2 Act; and to declare an emergency.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Sections 1 to 8 of this act shall be known and may be  
2 cited as the Redistricting Act.

3           Sec. 2. For purposes of the Redistricting Act:

4           (1) Committee means the Redistricting Committee of the Legislature;

5           (2) Corrective amendment means an amendment which corrects a  
6 technical error but does not substantially alter the boundary lines; and

7           (3) Director means the Director of Research of the office of  
8 Legislative Research or his or her designee.

9           Sec. 3. The purpose of the Redistricting Act is to establish  
10 procedures to divide the State of Nebraska into districts by designating  
11 boundary lines based on population for the election or appointment of  
12 representatives from the State of Nebraska to the United States House of  
13 Representatives, judges of the Supreme Court, and members of the  
14 Legislature, the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the  
15 Public Service Commission, and the State Board of Education. The  
16 districts shall be established by maps incorporated by reference into  
17 legislation enacted by the Legislature.

18           Sec. 4. (1) The chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the  
19 committee shall be elected by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds  
20 of the members of the committee.

21           (2) The maps to be established under the Redistricting Act shall be  
22 drawn using politically neutral criteria. The maps and districts shall be  
23 drawn:

24           (a) With equality of population, subject to a population deviation  
25 of plus or minus one percent or less; and

26           (b) Resulting in contiguous districts.

27           (3) It is the intent of the Legislature that the maps and districts  
28 are drawn:

29           (a) Without consideration of the political affiliation of residents  
30 or registered voters;

31           (b) Without consideration of the previous voting data of residents

1 or registered voters;

2 (c) Using only data and demographic information from the United  
3 States Bureau of the Census; and

4 (d) With deference to county and municipal boundary lines when  
5 appropriate.

6 (4) In drawing boundaries for legislative districts, no  
7 consideration shall be given to the political affiliation of residents or  
8 registered voters, demographic information other than population figures,  
9 or the results of previous elections, except as may be required by  
10 federal law and the Constitution of the United States.

11 Sec. 5. The legislative bills incorporating the initial version of  
12 the maps shall not be placed on the agenda for General File consideration  
13 until fourteen calendar days after the last public hearing held pursuant  
14 to section 6 of this act.

15 Sec. 6. The committee shall distribute the federal decennial census  
16 data received from the United States Bureau of the Census and make the  
17 maps received from the director available to the public. The committee  
18 shall conduct at least one public hearing in each congressional district  
19 to receive public comment on the maps.

20 Sec. 7. No changes other than corrective amendments shall be  
21 allowed to the initial version of the maps to be established under the  
22 Redistricting Act or the legislative bills incorporating the maps.

23 Sec. 8. If the Legislature fails to enact legislation to provide  
24 for district boundaries for any entity listed in section 3 of this act  
25 prior to adjournment of the legislative session, the Governor shall call  
26 a special session within thirty days after the adjournment sine die of  
27 such legislative session and the director and the committee shall begin  
28 with a new initial version of the map during the special session and  
29 otherwise comply with the Redistricting Act.

30 Sec. 9. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when  
31 passed and approved according to law.