

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 975

Introduced by Howard, 9; Crawford, 45; Vargas, 7.

Read first time January 10, 2018

Committee:

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to redistricting; to adopt the Redistricting

2 Act.

3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 12 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 and

6 (2) Director means the Director of Research of the office of
7 Legislative Research or his or her designee.

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

17 Sec. 4. The maps to be established under the Redistricting Act
18 shall be drawn using state-issued computer software and politically
19 neutral criteria, including:

20 (1) Equal population;

21 (2) No political affiliation;

22 (3) No previous voting data;

23 (4) Only data and demographic information from the United States
24 Bureau of the Census;

25 (5) Deference to county and municipal lines when appropriate; and

26 (6) Contiguous districts.

27 Sec. 5. The director shall deliver initial versions of the maps to
28 be established under the Redistricting Act to the Legislature to be
29 placed on General File no later than fifteen calendar days after the
30 director receives the federal decennial census data from the United
31 States Bureau of the Census in the year after the census. The legislative

1 bills incorporating the initial version of the maps shall not be placed
2 on the agenda for General File consideration until after the committee
3 delivers its report under section 6 of this act.

4 Sec. 6. The committee shall distribute the federal decennial census
5 data received from the United States Bureau of the Census and make the
6 maps received from the director available to the public. The committee
7 shall conduct at least one public hearing in each congressional district
8 to receive public comment on the maps. The committee shall deliver a
9 report on the hearings to the Legislature within fourteen calendar days
10 after the maps are delivered to the Legislature and placed on General
11 File under section 5 of this act.

12 Sec. 7. (1) No changes other than corrective amendments shall be
13 allowed to the initial version of the maps to be established under the
14 Redistricting Act or the legislative bills incorporating the maps.

15 (2) If the Legislature has not advanced one or more of the
16 legislative bills incorporating the initial version of the maps to Select
17 File within three legislative days after the report of the committee is
18 delivered to the Legislature under section 6 of this act, the legislative
19 bill shall remain on General File and the director shall prepare a second
20 version of the map for each such legislative bill as provided in section
21 8 of this act. Within forty-eight hours after the end of the third
22 legislative day or the failure of a legislative bill to advance to Select
23 File, whichever is sooner, a member may submit his or her comments or
24 suggested changes, regarding a map for which a second version is
25 required, to the Clerk of the Legislature for submission to the director.

26 (3) If one or more of the legislative bills incorporating the
27 initial version of the maps fail to pass on Final Reading or are vetoed
28 by the Governor, the director shall prepare a second version of the map
29 for each such legislative bill as provided in section 8 of this act.
30 Within forty-eight hours after the failure of a legislative bill to pass
31 on Final Reading, a member may submit his or her comments or suggested

1 changes, regarding a map for which a second version is required, to the
2 Clerk of the Legislature for submission to the director.

3 Sec. 8. The director shall deliver a second version of any map
4 required under subsection (2) or (3) of section 7 of this act no later
5 than twenty calendar days after the failure to advance to Select File,
6 the failure to pass on Final Reading, or the veto by the Governor, as
7 applicable. The maps shall comply with section 4 of this act and may
8 incorporate changes suggested by members under section 7 of this act and
9 changes suggested in the veto message.

10 Sec. 9. (1) No changes other than corrective amendments shall be
11 allowed to the second version of maps required under subsection (2) or
12 (3) of section 7 of this act or the legislative bills incorporating the
13 maps. If a second version of a map is required because of a veto, a
14 legislative bill shall be introduced for the map on or before the next
15 legislative day after the veto.

16 (2) If one or more of the legislative bills incorporating the second
17 version of the maps (a) fail to pass on Final Reading by the third
18 legislative day after the second maps are delivered to the Legislature
19 under section 9 of this act or (b) are vetoed by the Governor, the
20 director shall prepare a third version of the map for each such
21 legislative bill as provided in section 10 of this act. Within forty-
22 eight hours after the failure of a legislative bill to pass on Final
23 Reading, a member may submit his or her comments or suggested changes,
24 regarding a map for which a third version is required, to the Clerk of
25 the Legislature for submission to the director.

26 Sec. 10. The director shall deliver a third version of any map
27 required under section 9 of this act no later than twenty calendar days
28 after the failure to pass on Final Reading or the veto by the Governor,
29 as applicable. The maps shall comply with section 4 of this act and may
30 incorporate changes suggested by members under section 9 of this act and
31 changes suggested in the veto message.

1 Sec. 11. Amendments to adopt changes shall be allowed to the third
2 version of maps required under section 9 of this act and the legislative
3 bills incorporating the maps. If a third version of a map is required
4 because of a veto, a legislative bill shall be introduced for the map on
5 or before the next legislative day after the veto.

6 Sec. 12. If the Legislature fails to enact legislation to provide
7 for district boundaries for any entity listed in section 3 of this act
8 prior to adjournment of the legislative session, the Governor shall call
9 a special session within thirty days after the adjournment sine die of
10 such legislative session and the director and the committee shall begin
11 with a new initial version of the map during the special session and
12 otherwise comply with the Redistricting Act.