

SENATE BILL 1855

By Kyle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3,
Chapter 1, Part 1, relative to legislative districts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-103, is amended by deleting subsection (b) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(b) It is the intention of the general assembly that:

- (1) Each district be represented by a single member;
- (2) Districts must be substantially equal in population in accordance with constitutional requirements for "one (1) person one (1) vote";
- (3) Geographic areas, boundaries and population counts used for redistricting shall be based on the 2000 federal decennial census;
- (4) Districts must be contiguous and contiguity by water is sufficient, and, toward that end, if any voting district or other geographical entity designated as a portion of a district is found to be noncontiguous with the larger portion of such district, it shall be constituted a portion of the district smallest in population to which it is contiguous;
- (5) No more than thirty (30) counties may be split to attach to other counties or parts of counties to form multi-county districts; and
- (6) The redistricting plan will comply with the Voting Rights Act, other applicable federal statutes, federal district and appellate court decisions, United States Supreme Court decisions, and the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the United States Constitution.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.