

---

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8227**

---

**State of Washington**

**62nd Legislature**

**2012 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Hewitt and Brown

Read first time 02/06/12. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3 THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the  
4 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state  
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to  
6 Article II, section 43 of the Constitution of the state of Washington  
7 to read as follows:

8 Article II, section 43. (1) In January of each year ending in one,  
9 a commission shall be established to provide for the redistricting of  
10 state legislative and congressional districts.

11 (2) The commission shall be composed of five members to be selected  
12 as follows: The legislative leader of the two largest political  
13 parties in each house of the legislature shall appoint one voting  
14 member to the commission by January 15th of each year ending in one.  
15 By January 31st of each year ending in one, the four appointed members,  
16 by an affirmative vote of at least three, shall appoint the remaining  
17 member. The fifth member of the commission, who shall be nonvoting,  
18 shall act as its chairperson. If any appointing authority fails to

1 make the required appointment by the date established by this  
2 subsection, within five days after that date the supreme court shall  
3 make the required appointment.

4 (3) No elected official and no person elected to legislative  
5 district, county, or state political party office may serve on the  
6 commission. A commission member shall not have been an elected  
7 official and shall not have been an elected legislative district,  
8 county, or state political party officer within two years of his or her  
9 appointment to the commission. The provisions of this subsection do  
10 not apply to the office of precinct committee person.

11 (4) The legislature shall enact laws providing for the  
12 implementation of this section, to include additional qualifications  
13 for commissioners and additional standards to govern the commission.  
14 The legislature shall appropriate funds to enable the commission to  
15 carry out its duties.

16 (5) Each district shall contain a population, excluding nonresident  
17 military personnel, as nearly equal as practicable to the population of  
18 any other district. To the extent reasonable, each district shall  
19 contain contiguous territory, shall be compact and convenient, and  
20 shall be separated from adjoining districts by natural geographic  
21 barriers, artificial barriers, or political subdivision boundaries.  
22 The commission's plan shall not provide for a number of legislative  
23 districts different than that established by the legislature. The  
24 commission's plan shall not be drawn purposely to favor or discriminate  
25 against any political party or group.

26 (6) The commission shall complete redistricting as soon as possible  
27 following the federal decennial census, but no later than (~~January~~  
28 ~~1st~~) November 15th of each year ending in (~~two~~) one. At least three  
29 of the voting members shall approve such a redistricting plan. If  
30 three of the voting members of the commission fail to approve a plan  
31 within the time limitations provided in this subsection, the supreme  
32 court shall adopt a plan by April 30th of the year ending in two in  
33 conformance with the standards set forth in subsection (5) of this  
34 section.

35 (7) The legislature may amend the redistricting plan but must do so  
36 by a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected or appointed to each  
37 house of the legislature. Any amendment must have passed both houses  
38 by the end of the thirtieth day of the first session convened after the

1 commission has submitted its plan to the legislature. After that day,  
2 the plan, with any legislative amendments, constitutes the state  
3 districting law.

4 (8) The legislature shall enact laws providing for the reconvening  
5 of a commission for the purpose of modifying a districting law adopted  
6 under this section. Such reconvening requires a two-thirds vote of the  
7 legislators elected or appointed to each house of the legislature. The  
8 commission shall conform to the standards prescribed under subsection  
9 (5) of this section and any other standards or procedures that the  
10 legislature may provide by law. At least three of the voting members  
11 shall approve such a modification. Any modification adopted by the  
12 commission may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the legislators  
13 elected and appointed to each house of the legislature. The state  
14 districting law shall include the modifications with amendments, if  
15 any.

16 (9) The legislature shall prescribe by law the terms of commission  
17 members and the method of filling vacancies on the commission.

18 (10) The supreme court has original jurisdiction to hear and decide  
19 all cases involving congressional and legislative redistricting.

20 (11) Legislative and congressional districts may not be changed or  
21 established except pursuant to this section. A districting plan and  
22 any legislative amendments to the plan are not subject to Article III,  
23 section 12 of this Constitution.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause  
25 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four  
26 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal  
27 newspaper in the state.

--- END ---