



2005 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 25

May 18, 2005 - Introduced by Senator RISSER, cosponsored by Representative KESSLER. Referred to Committee on Labor and Election Process Reform.

1 **To amend** section 4 of article IV and section 5 of article IV of the constitution;
2 **relating to:** standards for redistricting assembly and senate districts (first
3 consideration).

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This proposed constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2005 legislature on first consideration, provides that assembly districts, when redistricted, must be as nearly equal in population and as politically competitive as practicable. It provides that, when redistricted, senate districts must be in as compact a form and as politically competitive as practicable.

The proposal also requires that assembly and senate districting plans must enable, to the extent practicable, the election of an assembly and of a senate that is reflective of the racial diversity of the state as a whole.

A proposed constitutional amendment requires adoption by two successive legislatures, and ratification by the people, before it can become effective.

4 **Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That:**
5 **SECTION 1.** Section 4 of article IV of the constitution is amended to read:
6 [Article IV] Section 4. The members of the assembly shall be chosen biennially,
7 by single districts, on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday of November in

8 even-numbered years, by the qualified electors of the several districts, such districts
1 to be bounded by county, precinct, town, or ward lines, to consist of contiguous
2 territory and to be as nearly equal in population, in as compact a form, and as
3 politically competitive as practicable. The assembly districting plan shall enable, to
4 the extent practicable, the election of an assembly that is reflective of the racial
5 diversity of the state as a whole.

6 **SECTION 2.** Section 5 of article IV of the constitution is amended to read:

7 [Article IV] Section 5. The senators shall be elected by single districts of
8 convenient contiguous territory, at the same time and in the same manner as
9 members of the assembly are required to be chosen; and no assembly district shall
10 be divided in the formation of a senate district; the senate districts to be in as compact
11 a form and as politically competitive as practicable. The senate districting plan shall
12 enable, to the extent practicable, the election of a senate that is reflective of the racial
13 diversity of the state as a whole. The senate districts shall be numbered in the
14 regular series, and the senators shall be chosen alternately from the odd and
15 even-numbered districts for the term of 4 years.

16 ***Be it further resolved, That*** this proposed amendment be referred to the
17 legislature to be chosen at the next general election and that it be published for 3
18 months previous to the time of holding such election.

19 (END)