

SB 2228

Senator Joan Heckaman

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Sen. Joan Heckaman from District 23 and I am here to introduce SB 2228 to you.

The 2020 Census has been completed and the North Dakota Legislature will begin the process of redistricting. Currently, Legislative Council as well as legislative leaders have been apprised of work that has begun through national legislative organizations. Legislative Council has accepted a software vendor for our redistricting process. But current law provides that the redistricting committee will be selected from members of the legislature. To me, that poses the question, does it allow legislators to own their voters?

The bill before you establishes a nonpartisan advisory redistricting commission that would be tasked with using the census data to devise a plan that divides ND into 47 legislative district and complies with the requirements in the US Constitution. After the plan has been developed, the commission will submit the plan and any proposed legislation necessary to implement the plan to legislative management for their consideration, For your information I provided the composition of the last redistricting committee in a hand out. (redistricting handout).

You may have heard the work “Gerrymandering” used in connection with redistricting. Gerrymandering is an unfortunate process that restricts the voices of voters by dividing up communities, towns, and counties into different legislative districts simply to serve a partisan goal. (Handout of current districts)

In analyzing information, I have a handout for you to participate in the redistricting process. (red/blue handout)

As you can see, using the same demographics, there are several ways to divide up citizens into different kinds of districts. Using this exercise as an example, shows exactly why some states already have commissions that takes the politics out of the process.

NCSL has information on states that have commissions with primary responsibility for redistricting, some who serve in an advisory capacity, and some have backup commissions if the legislature is unable to agree.

The methodology in this bill would be transparent, representative, and accountable to the people of North Dakota by ensuring district lines are drawn fairly and in a manner that respects the communities and political subdivisions in our state. This bill also ensures that legislators are truly serving the best interests of the communities they represent.

Legislators should not be able to pick their voters. Voters should pick their legislators.

Redistricting is an important process that impacts representation, either positively or negatively. It is my hope that we can be non-partisan in North Dakota and join other states who recognize the importance of the process.

That concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any question you may have.

North Dakota Legislative Branch

Legislative Redistricting Committee

Interim Committee Studies and Assignments

(16 members)

1267 §.1 Develop a legislative redistricting plan to be implemented in time for use in the 2012 primary election

Legislative Council Staff

- John Bjornson
- Vonette J. Richter

Chairman



Senator Ray Holmberg
Republican
District 17

Vice Chairman



Representative Bill Devlin
Republican
District 23

Legislative Members



Representative Larry Bellew
Republican
District 38



Representative Rick Holman
Democrat
District 20



Representative Nancy Johnson
Republican
District 37



Representative Jim Kasper
Republican
District 46



Representative Jerry Kelsh
Democrat
District 26



Representative David Monson
Republican
District 10



Representative Mike Nathe
Republican
District 30

Committee Meetings

October 11, 2011 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm CDT

October 12, 2011 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm CDT

Committee Documents

- [Notice](#) (8kb)
- [Agenda](#) (9kb)
- [Minutes](#) (53kb)

September 27, 2011 - 9:00 am CDT

Committee Documents

- [Notice](#) (8kb)
- [Agenda](#) (8kb)
- [Minutes](#) (51kb)

September 16, 2011 - 9:00 am CDT

Committee Documents

- [Notice](#) (8kb)
- [Agenda](#) (8kb)
- [Minutes](#) (39kb)

August 23, 2011 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm CDT

August 24, 2011 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm CDT

Committee Documents

- [Notice](#) (8kb)
- [Agenda](#) (9kb)
- [Minutes](#) (44kb)

August 4, 2011 - 9:00 am CDT

Committee Documents

- [Notice](#) (8kb)
- [Agenda](#) (8kb)
- [Minutes](#) (26kb)

July 21, 2011 - 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm CDT

July 22, 2011 - 8:30 am to 12:00 pm CDT

Committee Documents

- [Notice](#) (8kb)
- [Agenda](#) (8kb)
- [Minutes](#) (36kb)

Committee Memorandums

- [Estimated Cost of a Legislative District](#) (11.0 KB pdf)

June 16, 2011 - 11:00 am CDT

Committee Documents

- [Notice](#) (8kb)
- [Agenda](#) (9kb)
- [Minutes](#) (30kb)

Committee Memorandums

- [Legislative Redistricting - Background Memorandum](#) (71.0 KB pdf)
- [Supplementary Rules of Operation and Procedure of the North Dakota Legislative Management](#) (16.0 KB pdf)



Senator Randel Christmann

Resigned: November 21, 2012

Republican

District 33



Senator Dwight Cook

Republican

District 34



Senator Tony Grindberg

Republican

District 41



Senator Jerry Klein

Republican

District 14



Senator Stanley W. Lyson

Republican

District 1



Senator Ryan M. Taylor

Democrat

District 7



Senator John M. Warner

Democrat

District 4