

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 54-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Staggering of terms of members of the legislative assembly.

1. A senator and two representatives must be elected from each even-numbered district in 2012 for a term of four years.
2. A senator and two representatives must be elected from each odd-numbered district in 2014 for a term of four years.
3. The term of office of a member of the legislative assembly elected in an odd-numbered district in 2010 for a term of four years and who as a result of legislative redistricting is placed in an even-numbered district terminates December 1, 2012.
4. A member of the legislative assembly who was elected from an odd-numbered district in 2010 for a term of four years and who as a result of legislative redistricting is placed in an even-numbered district may continue to serve the remainder of the term for which the member was elected beyond December 1, 2012, if the member changes the member's place of residence to a location within the odd-numbered district from which the member was elected by February 1, 2012, and certifies in writing to the secretary of state and the chairman of the legislative management that the member has established a new residence in that district as determined by section 54-01-26. If the member does not establish residency within the district from which the member was elected by February 1, 2012, the term of office of that member terminates on December 1, 2012.
5. The term of office of a member of the legislative assembly in an odd-numbered district with new geographic area which area was not in that member's district for the 2010 election and which new geographic area has a 2010 population which is more than three thousand five hundred seventy-seven terminates on December 1, 2012.
6. Notwithstanding section 16.1-13-10, a vacancy caused in an odd-numbered district as a result of legislative redistricting must be filled at the 2012 general election by electing a member to a two-year term of office.

SECTION 3. SECRETARY OF STATE TO MODIFY ELECTION DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES. If, as a result of a delay in implementation of this Act, it becomes necessary to modify election deadlines and procedures for the conduct of the 2012 primary election, the secretary of state, in consultation with city and county election officials, shall adopt modified election deadlines and procedures to allow the conduct of the 2012 primary election as scheduled. The modified deadlines and procedures may address filing and publishing deadlines and any other matters necessary to accommodate the conduct of the primary election.

SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - BOUNDARIES. It is the intent of the legislative assembly that although this Act is effective on December 1, 2011, the members of the legislative assembly elected under the redistricting plan effective on November 30, 2011, shall continue to serve until implementation of this Act. Any reference in the legislative district descriptions to a city limit or the Fort Berthold reservation boundary as a boundary line refers to the limit or boundary as it existed on January 1, 2010, as shown on the 2010 census maps. A legislative district boundary using the Fort Berthold reservation or city limit lines does not migrate as the Fort Berthold reservation boundary or city limits migrate. For purposes of legislative district descriptions, unless cities are otherwise specifically named, townships encompass all the territory within their outer boundaries.