

# One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LR134

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**Chairperson: Senator Lou Ann Linehan**

**Committee: Redistricting**

**Date of Hearing: May 18, 2021**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LR 134 prescribes the substantive criteria to be used by the Legislature during the 2021 redistricting process. The Legislature is responsible for drawing district boundaries for the U.S. House of Representatives, Legislature, the Nebraska Supreme Court, and Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, Public Service Commission, and State Board of Education. The criteria are designed to help ensure that the redistricting plans developed by the Legislature are constitutionally acceptable. Generally, when drawing district boundaries, the Legislature shall:

(A) Use population data from the 2020 United States Census and census geography. (See Guidelines 1 and 2.)

(B) Follow county lines whenever practicable and follow traditional districting principles, which includes defining districts that are compact and contiguous, preserving communities of interest, and the preservation of the cores of prior districts, as those principles have been articulated by the United States Supreme Court. (See Guidelines 3 and 4.)

(C) Not favor a political party or consider the political affiliations of registered voters. (See Guidelines 5 and 6.)

(D) Not dilute the voting strength of any minority population. (See Guideline 7.)

(E) Create districts that are substantially equal in population. These guidelines also identify the number of districts and the deviation rates acceptable for each redistricted entity. (See Guidelines 8 and 9.)

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Lou Ann Linehan, Chairperson  
Redistricting Committee**