

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LR134

Hearing Date: Tuesday May 18, 2021
Committee On: Redistricting
Introducer: Redistricting
One Liner: Adopt the proposed guidelines to be used by the Legislature during the 2021 redistricting process

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Report to the Legislature for further consideration with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Aye: | 5 | Senators Brewer, Briese, Geist, Linehan, Lowe |
| Nay: | 3 | Senators Blood, Lathrop, Morfeld |
| Absent: | 1 | Senator Wayne |
| Present Not Voting: | | |

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Sheri St. Clair
Westin Miller
Gavin Geis
Meg Mikolajczyk
Spike Eickholt
Precious McKesson

Representing:

League of Women Voters
Civic Nebraska
Common Cause Nebraska
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Nebraska
ACLU of Nebraska
Self, United State of Women Nebraska Ambassador

Opponents:

Mark McHargue
Steve Ebke
Bob Twiss

Representing:

Ag Leaders
Self
Self

Neutral:

Sherry Vinton
Judy King
Dennis Fujan
Steven Watson
Jason Perdue

Representing:

Self
Self
Self
Self
Self

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

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.)

Explanation of amendments:

In Sec. 4 insert "allow" before "for the preservation of cores of the prior districts."

In Sec. 9 insert "allowance" before "for the preservation of cores of the prior districts."

Lou Ann Linehan, Chairperson