

1 their needs;

2 (3) Single member districts provide enhanced accountability,
3 as it is easier for citizens to follow the actions of one delegate
4 than to follow the actions of many;

5 (4) Single member districts would aid in the implementation of
6 campaign finance reform as these smaller districts would reduce the
7 amount of money needed for candidates to successfully contest
8 elections;

9 (5) Where large sums of money must be raised to compete in
10 multidelegate districts, inordinate attention is given to the
11 interests of contributors, and not the citizenry as a whole;

12 (6) Historically, multimember districts were a tactic used in
13 the segregation era to deny minority voters the full exercise of
14 their franchise;

15 (7) Multimember districts continue to cause the
16 disenfranchisement of large groups of voters in whole regions of
17 West Virginia, including among others, voters in eastern Kanawha
18 County and Mason County;

19 (8) Only ten states do not use the single member district
20 system; and

21 (9) That of all the states in the Union, only West Virginia
22 and New Hampshire continue to have legislative districts consisting
23 of three or more members.

24 (b) The Legislature, therefore, declares it to be in the best

1 interest of its citizens that:

2 (1) The State of West Virginia establish as a principle that
3 single member delegate districts are needed for better functioning
4 of our state's political system;

5 (2) Their use would lead to greater accountability and
6 effective representation in our political process;

7 (3) They would serve as a check on corruption of our public
8 life and our ideals;

9 (4) They would correct gross inequities currently present in
10 our existing system; and

11 (5) To achieve these ends, the policy of the state is to enact
12 a plan for single member districts.

13 (c) Based upon the legislative findings and declarations
14 contained within this section, the House of Delegates is to be
15 permanently composed of one hundred single member districts, with
16 apportionment to meet Constitutional standards, based upon the
17 results of the 2010 United States Census.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create one hundred single member districts after the 2010 census.

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.