

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2990

BY DELEGATE KUMP

[Introduced February 11, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §1-2-1a, relating to the redistricting of the Senate into 34 single senatorial
 3 districts beginning in 2020 based on the 2010 census.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. APPORTIONMENT OF REPRESENTATION.

§1-2-1a. Redistricting of senatorial districts.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that:

2 (1) Single senatorial districts best exemplify the principle of one person, one vote;

3 (2) Single senatorial districts provide enhanced responsiveness to constituent needs, as
 4 the fewer constituents that each senator represents, the more time and energy a senator has to
 5 devote to their needs;

6 (3) Single senatorial districts provide enhanced accountability, as it is easier for citizens
 7 to follow the actions of one senator than to follow the actions of two;

8 (4) Single senatorial districts would aid in the implementation of campaign finance reform
 9 as a smaller district would reduce the amount of money needed for candidates to successfully
 10 contest elections;

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

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

15 (7) Multi-senatorial districts continue to cause the disenfranchisement of large groups of
 16 voters in whole regions of West Virginia;

17 (b) The Legislature, therefore, declares it to be in the best interest of its citizens that:

18 (1) The State of West Virginia establish as a principle that single senatorial districts are
 19 needed for better functioning of our state's political system;

20 (2) Their use would lead to greater accountability and effective representation in our

21 political process;

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

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

24 (5) To achieve these ends, the policy of the state is to enact a plan for single senatorial
25 districts.

26 (c) Based upon the legislative findings and declarations contained within this section, and
27 notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary and consistent with constitutional
28 requirements, the Senate is to be permanently composed of 34 single senatorial districts, with
29 apportionment to meet constitutional standards, based upon the results of the 2010 United States
30 Census to be implemented during the 2020 elections.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create 34 single senatorial districts based on the 2010 census and implemented during the 2020 elections

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.