

REDISTRICTING GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

42.1 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

1. "*Chief election officer*" means the state commissioner of elections as defined by section 47.1.
2. "*Commission*" means the temporary redistricting advisory commission established pursuant to this chapter.
3. "*Federal census*" means the decennial census required by federal law to be conducted by the United States bureau of the census in every year ending in zero.
4. "*Four selecting authorities*" means:
 - a. The majority floor leader of the state senate.
 - b. The minority floor leader of the state senate.
 - c. The majority floor leader of the state house of representatives.
 - d. The minority floor leader of the state house of representatives.
5. "*Partisan public office*" means:
 - a. An elective or appointive office in the executive or legislative branch or in an independent establishment of the federal government.
 - b. An elective office in the executive or legislative branch of the government of this state, or an office which is filled by appointment and is exempt from the merit system under section 8A.412.
 - c. An office of a county, city or other political subdivision of this state which is filled by an election process involving nomination and election of candidates on a partisan basis.
6. "*Plan*" means a plan for legislative and congressional reapportionment drawn up pursuant to the requirements of this chapter.
7. "*Political party office*" means an elective office in the national or state organization of a political party, as defined by section 43.2.
8. "*Relative*" means an individual who is related to the person in question as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother or half sister.

[C81, § 42.1]

2003 Acts, ch 145, §151

42.2 Preparations for redistricting.

1. The legislative services agency shall acquire appropriate information, review and evaluate available facilities, and develop programs and procedures in preparation for drawing congressional and legislative

redistricting plans on the basis of each federal census. Funds shall be expended for the purchase or lease of equipment and materials only with prior approval of the legislative council.

2. By December 31 of each year ending in zero, the legislative services agency shall obtain from the United States bureau of the census information regarding geographic and political units in this state for which federal census population data has been gathered and will be tabulated. The legislative services agency shall use the data so obtained to:

a. Prepare necessary descriptions of geographic and political units for which census data will be reported, and which are suitable for use as components of legislative districts.

b. Prepare maps of counties, cities and other geographic units within the state, which may be used to illustrate the locations of legislative district boundaries proposed in plans drawn in accordance with section 42.4.

3. As soon as possible after January 1 of each year ending in one, the legislative services agency shall obtain from the United States bureau of the census the population data needed for legislative districting which the census bureau is required to provide this state under United States Pub. L. 94-171, and shall use that data to assign a population figure based upon certified federal census data to each geographic or political unit described pursuant to subsection 2, paragraph "a". Upon completing that task, the legislative services agency shall begin the preparation of congressional and legislative districting plans as required by section 42.3.

[C81, § 42.2]

2003 Acts, ch 35, §44, 49

42.3 Timetable for preparation of plan.

1. Not later than April 1 of each year ending in one, the legislative services agency shall deliver to the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives identical bills embodying a plan of legislative and congressional districting prepared in accordance with section 42.4. It is the intent of this chapter that the general assembly shall bring the bill to a vote in either the senate or the house of representatives expeditiously, but not less than seven days after the report of the commission required by section 42.6 is received and made available to the members of the general assembly, under a procedure or rule permitting no amendments except those of a purely corrective nature. It is further the intent of this chapter that if the bill is approved by the first house in which it is considered, it shall expeditiously be brought to a vote in the second house under a similar procedure or rule.

2. If the bill embodying the plan submitted by the legislative services agency under subsection 1 fails to be approved by a constitutional majority in either the senate or the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate or the chief clerk of the house, as the case may be, shall at once transmit to the legislative services agency information which the senate or house may direct regarding reasons why the plan was not approved. The legislative services agency shall prepare a bill embodying a second plan of legislative and congressional districting prepared in accordance with section 42.4, and taking into account the reasons cited by the senate or house of representatives for its failure to approve the plan insofar as it is possible to do so within the requirements of section 42.4. If a second plan is required under this subsection, the bill embodying it shall be delivered to the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives not later than May 1 of the year ending in one, or twenty-one days after the date of the vote by which the senate or the house of representatives fails to approve the bill submitted under subsection 1, whichever date is later. It is the intent of this chapter that, if it is necessary to submit a bill under this subsection, the bill be brought to a vote not less than seven days after the bill is printed and made available to the members of the general assembly, in the same manner as prescribed for the bill required under subsection 1.

3. If the bill embodying the plan submitted by the legislative services agency under subsection 2 fails to be

approved by a constitutional majority in either the senate or the house of representatives, the same procedure as prescribed by subsection 2 shall be followed. If a third plan is required under this subsection, the bill embodying it shall be delivered to the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives not later than June 1 of the year ending in one, or twenty-one days after the date of the vote by which the senate or the house of representatives fails to approve the bill submitted under subsection 2, whichever date is later. It is the intent of this chapter that, if it is necessary to submit a bill under this subsection, the bill be brought to a vote within the same time period after its delivery to the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives as is prescribed for the bill submitted under subsection 2, but shall be subject to amendment in the same manner as other bills.

4. Notwithstanding subsections 1, 2 and 3 of this section:

a. If population data from the federal census which is sufficient to permit preparation of a congressional districting plan complying with article III, section 37 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa becomes available at an earlier time than the population data needed to permit preparation of a legislative districting plan in accordance with section 42.4, the legislative services agency shall so inform the presiding officers of the senate and house of representatives. If the presiding officers so direct, the legislative services agency shall prepare a separate bill establishing congressional districts and submit it separately from the bill establishing legislative districts. It is the intent of this chapter that the general assembly shall proceed to consider the congressional districting bill in substantially the manner prescribed by subsections 1, 2 and 3 of this section.

b. If the population data for legislative districting which the United States census bureau is required to provide this state under United States Pub. L. 94-171 and, if used by the legislative services agency, the corresponding topologically integrated geographic encoding and referencing data file for that population data, is not available to the legislative services agency on or before February 1 of the year ending in one, the dates set forth in this section shall be extended by a number of days equal to the number of days after February 1 of the year ending in one that the federal census population data and the topologically integrated geographic encoding and referencing data file for legislative districting becomes available.

[C81, § 42.3]

94 Acts, ch 1179, §1, 2; 2003 Acts, ch 35, §44, 49

42.4 Redistricting standards.

1. Legislative and congressional districts shall be established on the basis of population.

a. Senatorial and representative districts, respectively, shall each have a population as nearly equal as practicable to the ideal population for such districts, determined by dividing the number of districts to be established into the population of the state reported in the federal decennial census. Senatorial districts and representative districts shall not vary in population from the respective ideal district populations except as necessary to comply with one of the other standards enumerated in this section. In no case shall the quotient, obtained by dividing the total of the absolute values of the deviations of all district populations from the applicable ideal district population by the number of districts established, exceed one percent of the applicable ideal district population. No senatorial district shall have a population which exceeds that of any other senatorial district by more than five percent, and no representative district shall have a population which exceeds that of any other representative district by more than five percent.

b. Congressional districts shall each have a population as nearly equal as practicable to the ideal district population, derived as prescribed in paragraph "a" of this subsection. No congressional district shall have a population which varies by more than one percent from the applicable ideal district population, except as necessary to comply with article III, section 37 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa.

c. If a challenge is filed with the supreme court alleging excessive population variance among districts established in a plan adopted by the general assembly, the general assembly has the burden of justifying any variance in excess of one percent between the population of a district and the applicable ideal district population.

2. To the extent consistent with subsection 1, district boundaries shall coincide with the boundaries of political subdivisions of the state. The number of counties and cities divided among more than one district shall be as small as possible. When there is a choice between dividing local political subdivisions, the more populous subdivisions shall be divided before the less populous, but this statement does not apply to a legislative district boundary drawn along a county line which passes through a city that lies in more than one county.

3. Districts shall be composed of convenient contiguous territory. Areas which meet only at the points of adjoining corners are not contiguous.

4. It is preferable that districts be compact in form, but the standards established by subsections 1, 2 and 3 take precedence over compactness where a conflict arises between compactness and these standards. In general, compact districts are those which are square, rectangular or hexagonal in shape to the extent permitted by natural or political boundaries. When it is necessary to compare the relative compactness of two or more districts, or of two or more alternative districting plans, the tests prescribed by paragraphs "b" and "c" of this subsection shall be used. Should the results of these two tests be contradictory, the standard referred to in paragraph "b" of this subsection shall be given greater weight than the standard referred to in paragraph "c" of this subsection.

a. As used in this subsection:

(1) "*Population data unit*" means a civil township, election precinct, census enumeration district, census city block group, or other unit of territory having clearly identified geographic boundaries and for which a total population figure is included in or can be derived directly from certified federal census data.

(2) The "*geographic unit center*" of a population data unit is that point approximately equidistant from the northern and southern extremities, and also approximately equidistant from the eastern and western extremities, of a population data unit. This point shall be determined by visual observation of a map of the population data unit, unless it is otherwise determined within the context of an appropriate coordinate system developed by the federal government or another qualified and objective source and obtained for use in this state with prior approval of the legislative council.

(3) The "x" co-ordinate of a point in this state refers to the relative location of that point along the east-west axis of the state. Unless otherwise measured within the context of an appropriate co-ordinate system obtained for use as permitted by subparagraph 2 of this paragraph, the "x" co-ordinate shall be measured along a line drawn due east from a due north and south line running through the point which is the northwestern extremity of the state of Iowa, to the point to be located.

(4) The "y" co-ordinate of a point in this state refers to the relative location of that point along the north-south axis of the state. Unless otherwise measured within the context of an appropriate co-ordinate system obtained for use as permitted by subparagraph (2) of this paragraph, the "y" co-ordinate shall be measured along a line drawn due south from the northern boundary of the state or the eastward extension of that boundary, to the point to be located.

b. The compactness of a district is greatest when the length of the district and the width of the district are equal. The measure of a district's compactness is the absolute value of the difference between the length and the width of the district.

(1) In measuring the length and the width of a district by means of electronic data processing, the difference between the "x" co-ordinates of the easternmost and the westernmost geographic unit centers included in the district shall be compared to the difference between the "y" co-ordinates of the northernmost and southernmost geographic unit centers included in the district.

(2) To determine the length and width of a district by manual measurement, the distance from the northernmost point or portion of the boundary of a district to the southernmost point or portion of the boundary of the same district and the distance from the westernmost point or portion of the boundary of the district to the easternmost point or portion of the boundary of the same district shall each be measured. If the northernmost or southernmost portion of the boundary, or each of these points, is a part of the boundary running due east and west, the line used to make the measurement required by this paragraph shall either be drawn due north and south or as nearly so as the configuration of the district permits. If the easternmost or westernmost portion of the boundary, or each of these points, is a part of the boundary running due north and south, a similar procedure shall be followed. The lines to be measured for the purpose of this paragraph shall each be drawn as required by this paragraph, even if some part of either or both lines lies outside the boundaries of the district which is being tested for compactness.

(3) The absolute values computed for individual districts under this paragraph may be cumulated for all districts in a plan in order to compare the overall compactness of two or more alternative districting plans for the state, or for a portion of the state. However, it is not valid to cumulate or compare absolute values computed under subparagraph (1) with those computed under subparagraph (2) of this paragraph.

c. The compactness of a district is greatest when the ratio of the dispersion of population about the population center of the district to the dispersion of population about the geographic center of the district is one to one, the nature of this ratio being such that it is always greater than zero and can never be greater than one to one.

(1) The population dispersion about the population center of a district, and about the geographic center of a district, is computed as the sum of the products of the population of each population data unit included in the district multiplied by the square of the distance from that geographic unit center to the population center or the geographic center of the district, as the case may be. The geographic center of the district is defined by averaging the locations of all geographic unit centers which are included in the district. The population center of the district is defined by computing the population-weighted average of the "x" co-ordinates and "y" co-ordinates of each geographic unit center assigned to the district, it being assumed for the purpose of this calculation that each population data unit possesses uniform density of population.

(2) The ratios computed for individual districts under this paragraph may be averaged for all districts in a plan in order to compare the overall compactness of two or more alternative districting plans for the state, or for a portion of the state.

5. No district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, incumbent legislator or member of Congress, or other person or group, or for the purpose of augmenting or diluting the voting strength of a language or racial minority group. In establishing districts, no use shall be made of any of the following data:

a. Addresses of incumbent legislators or members of Congress.

b. Political affiliations of registered voters.

c. Previous election results.

d. Demographic information, other than population head counts, except as required by the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

6. In order to minimize electoral confusion and to facilitate communication within state legislative districts,

each plan drawn under this section shall provide that each representative district is wholly included within a single senatorial district and that, so far as possible, each representative and each senatorial district shall be included within a single congressional district. However, the standards established by subsections 1 through 5 shall take precedence where a conflict arises between these standards and the requirement, so far as possible, of including a senatorial or representative district within a single congressional district.

7. Each bill embodying a plan drawn under this section shall provide that any vacancy in the general assembly which takes office in the year ending in one, occurring at a time which makes it necessary to fill the vacancy at a special election held pursuant to section 69.14, shall be filled from the same district which elected the senator or representative whose seat is vacant.

8. Each bill embodying a plan drawn under this section shall include provisions for election of senators to the general assemblies which take office in the years ending in three and five, which shall be in conformity with article III, section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa. With respect to any plan drawn for consideration in the year 2001, those provisions shall be substantially as follows:

a. Each odd-numbered senatorial district shall elect a senator in 2002 for a four-year term commencing in January 2003. If an incumbent senator who was elected to a four-year term which commenced in January 2001, or was subsequently elected to fill a vacancy in such a term, is residing in an odd-numbered senatorial district on February 1, 2002, that senator's term of office shall be terminated on January 1, 2003.

b. Each even-numbered senatorial district shall elect a senator in 2004 for a four-year term commencing in January 2005.

(1) If one and only one incumbent state senator is residing in an even-numbered senatorial district on February 1, 2002, and that senator meets all of the following requirements, the senator shall represent the district in the senate for the Eightieth General Assembly:

(a) The senator was elected to a four-year term which commenced in January 2001 or was subsequently elected to fill a vacancy in such a term.

(b) The senatorial district in the plan which includes the place of residence of the state senator on the date of the senator's last election to the senate is the same as the even-numbered senatorial district in which the senator resides on February 1, 2002, or is contiguous to such even-numbered senatorial district and the senator's declared residence as of February 1, 2002, was within the district from which the senator was last elected. Areas which meet only at the points of adjoining corners are not contiguous.

The secretary of state shall prescribe a form to be completed by all senators to declare their residences as of February 1, 2002. The form shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than five p.m. on February 1, 2002.

(2) Each even-numbered senatorial district to which subparagraph (1) of this paragraph is not applicable shall elect a senator in 2002 for a two-year term commencing in January 2003. However, if more than one incumbent state senator is residing in an even-numbered senatorial district on February 1, 2002, and, on or before February 15, 2002, all but one of the incumbent senators resigns from office effective no later than January 1, 2003, the remaining incumbent senator shall represent the district in the senate for the Eightieth General Assembly. A copy of the resignation must be filed in the office of the secretary of state no later than five p.m. on February 15, 2002.

[C81, § 42.4]

90 Acts, ch 1244, §1; 94 Acts, ch 1042, §1; 94 Acts, ch 1179, §3

42.5 Temporary redistricting advisory commission.

1. Not later than February 15 of each year ending in one, a five member temporary redistricting advisory commission shall be established as provided by this section. The commission's only functions shall be those prescribed by section 42.6.

a. Each of the four selecting authorities shall certify to the chief election officer the authority's appointment of a person to serve on the commission. The certifications may be made at any time after the majority and minority floor leaders have been selected for the general assembly which takes office in the year ending in one, even though that general assembly's term of office has not actually begun.

b. Within thirty days after the four selecting authorities have certified their respective appointments to the commission, but in no event later than February 15 of the year ending in one, the four commission members so appointed shall select, by a vote of at least three members, and certify to the chief election officer the fifth commission member, who shall serve as chairperson.

c. A vacancy on the commission shall be filled by the initial selecting authority within fifteen days after the vacancy occurs.

d. Members of the commission shall receive a per diem as specified in section 7E.6, travel expenses at the rate provided by section 70A.9, and reimbursement for other necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties under this section and section 42.6. The per diem and expenses shall be paid from funds appropriated by section 2.12.

2. No person shall be appointed to the commission who:

a. Is not an eligible elector of the state at the time of selection.

b. Holds partisan public office or political party office.

c. Is a relative of or is employed by a member of the general assembly or of the United States Congress, or is employed directly by the general assembly or by the United States Congress.

[C81, § 42.5]

90 Acts, ch 1256, §23

42.6 Duties of commission.

The functions of the commission shall be as follows:

1. If, in preparation of plans as required by this chapter, the legislative services agency is confronted with the necessity to make any decision for which no clearly applicable guideline is provided by section 42.4, the legislative services agency may submit a written request for direction to the commission.

2. Prior to delivering any plan and the bill embodying that plan to the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives in accordance with section 42.3, the legislative services agency shall provide to persons outside the legislative services agency staff only such information regarding the plan as may be required by policies agreed upon by the commission. This subsection does not apply to population data furnished to the legislative services agency by the United States bureau of the census.

3. Upon each delivery by the legislative services agency to the general assembly of a bill embodying a plan, pursuant to section 42.3, the commission shall at the earliest feasible time make available to the public the

following information:

- a.* Copies of the bill delivered by the legislative services agency to the general assembly.
 - b.* Maps illustrating the plan.
 - c.* A summary of the standards prescribed by section 42.4 for development of the plan.
 - d.* A statement of the population of each district included in the plan, and the relative deviation of each district population from the ideal district population.
4. Upon the delivery by the legislative services agency to the general assembly of a bill embodying an initial plan, as required by section 42.3, subsection 1, the commission shall:
- a.* As expeditiously as reasonably possible, schedule and conduct at least three public hearings, in different geographic regions of the state, on the plan embodied in the bill delivered by the legislative services agency to the general assembly.
 - b.* Following the hearings, promptly prepare and submit to the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house a report summarizing information and testimony received by the commission in the course of the hearings. The commission's report shall include any comments and conclusions which its members deem appropriate on the information and testimony received at the hearings, or otherwise presented to the commission.

[C81, § 42.6]

2003 Acts, ch 35, §44, 49

42.7 Special arrangements for 19801981. Repealed by 80 Acts, ch 1021, § 7.