



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2006
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 939

Chairperson: L. Patrick Engel
Committee: Executive Board
Date of Hearing: February 10, 2006

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

LB 939 creates the Redistricting Act. The purpose of the bill is to provide a fair, open, nonpartisan, and permanent process by which redistricting will be accomplished.

The Redistricting Committee of the Legislature (committee) is created. It will be composed of nine members of the Legislature, three from each congressional district. No more than five members will be of the same political party. The committee will be responsible for administering the Redistricting Act and will prepare substantive and procedural guidelines.

The Director of Research of the Legislature (director) will redraw the congressional district boundaries and other boundaries and prepare redistricting maps. No later than March 1, the director will deliver the redistricting plans to the committee. The committee will then make them available to the public and the Legislature at the earliest feasible time.

The committee will schedule and conduct at least one public hearing on the plans in each congressional district. After the hearings, the committee will prepare and submit to the Legislature a report summarizing the information received by the committee. The Speaker of the Legislature will then bring the redistricting bills to a vote expeditiously. No amendments will be permitted other than those introduced by the committee or those of a purely corrective nature.

The bill outlines the procedures if any of the redistricting bills fail to advance from General File.

The bill also outlines criteria for the new districts, which include relative deviation standards, following county lines whenever practicable, and the prohibition of drawing the districts to favor a political party or incumbent.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator DiAnna R. Schimek