LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1207

Introduced by McCollister, 20; Crawford, 45; DeBoer, 10; Vargas, 7; Wayne, 13.

Read first time January 23, 2020

Committee: Executive Board

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to redistricting; to adopt the Redistricting Act.

2 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. Sections 1 to 8 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Redistricting Act.

Sec. 2. For purposes of the Redistricting Act:

(1) Committee means the Redistricting Committee of the Legislature;

(2) Corrective amendment means an amendment which corrects a technical error but does not substantially alter the boundary lines; and

(3) Director means the Director of Research of the office of Legislative Research or his or her designee.

Sec. 3. The purpose of the Redistricting Act is to establish procedures to divide the State of Nebraska into districts by designating boundary lines based on population for the election or appointment of representatives from the State of Nebraska to the United States House of Representatives, judges of the Supreme Court, and members of the Legislature, the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the Public Service Commission, and the State Board of Education. The districts shall be established by maps incorporated by reference into legislation enacted by the Legislature.

Sec. 4. (1) The chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the committee shall be elected by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the committee.

(2) The maps to be established under the Redistricting Act shall be drawn using politically neutral criteria. The maps and districts shall be drawn:

   (a) With equality of population, subject to a population deviation of plus or minus one percent or less; and

   (b) Resulting in contiguous districts.

(3) It is the intent of the Legislature that the maps and districts are drawn:

   (a) Without consideration of the political affiliation of residents or registered voters;

   (b) Without consideration of the previous voting data of residents
or registered voters;

(c) Using only data and demographic information from the United States Bureau of the Census; and

(d) With deference to county and municipal boundary lines when appropriate.

(4) In drawing boundaries for legislative districts, no consideration shall be given to the political affiliation of residents or registered voters, demographic information other than population figures, or the results of previous elections, except as may be required by federal law and the Constitution of the United States.

Sec. 5. The legislative bills incorporating the initial version of the maps shall not be placed on the agenda for General File consideration until fourteen calendar days after the last public hearing held pursuant to section 6 of this act.

Sec. 6. The committee shall distribute the federal decennial census data received from the United States Bureau of the Census and make the maps received from the director available to the public. The committee shall conduct at least one public hearing in each congressional district to receive public comment on the maps.

Sec. 7. No changes other than corrective amendments shall be allowed to the initial version of the maps to be established under the Redistricting Act or the legislative bills incorporating the maps.

Sec. 8. If the Legislature fails to enact legislation to provide for district boundaries for any entity listed in section 3 of this act prior to adjournment of the legislative session, the Governor shall call a special session within thirty days after the adjournment sine die of such legislative session and the director and the committee shall begin with a new initial version of the map during the special session and otherwise comply with the Redistricting Act.