

LEGISLATIVE BILL 970

Approved by the Governor April 17, 2002

Introduced by Dw. Pedersen, 39; Bromm, 23; Coordsen, 32

AN ACT relating to cities of the first class; to amend section 16-104, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 32-534, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2001; to change provisions relating to the creation of wards; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 16-104, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

16-104. If a city of the second class becomes a city of the first class, the mayor and council shall divide the city into not less than three wards, as compact in form and equal in population as may be, the boundaries of which shall be defined by ordinance, to take effect at the next annual city election after reorganization except as provided in section 32-553. ~~The mayor and council shall, within six years after the date the proclamation under section 16-102 is issued, divide the city into not less than four wards, as compact in form and equal in population as may be, the boundaries of which shall be defined by ordinance except as provided in section 32-553.~~ Each ward shall constitute an election district, except that when any ward has over five hundred legal voters, the mayor and council may divide such ward into two or more election districts. If it is necessary to establish the staggering of terms by nominating and electing council members for terms of different durations at the same elections, the candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall be nominated and have their names placed on the general election ballot.

Sec. 2. Section 32-534, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2001, is amended to read:

32-534. (1) In a city of the first class except a city having adopted the commissioner or city manager plan of government, a mayor shall be elected at large and council members shall be elected by ward or at large and by ward as provided in section 32-554. If members are elected by ward, one or two council members shall be elected from each ward, except that there shall be at least four council members, and two council members shall be required for each ward in any city having fewer than four wards. ~~as provided in section 16-104.~~ The council may provide for the election of the treasurer and clerk as provided in section 16-302.01.

(2) All elected officers in a city of the first class shall serve for terms of four years or until their successors are elected and qualified. The council members shall be nominated at the statewide primary election and elected at the statewide general election. The council members shall meet the qualifications found in section 16-302.01.

Sec. 3. Original section 16-104, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 32-534, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2001, are repealed.