

Introduced by

Senators Heckaman, Hogan, Oban

Representatives Boschee, Dobervich, Mitskog

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-03 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to a nonpartisan, advisory redistricting commission; and to provide a
3 statement of legislative intent.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Nonpartisan redistricting commission.**

- 8 1. Before January fifteenth of each year immediately subsequent to a year the United
9 States census bureau commences a decennial census, a seven-member, nonpartisan
10 redistricting commission must be selected as follows:
- 11 a. The governor shall appoint a dean or professor of law, political science, or
12 government at an institution of higher education in the state.
- 13 b. The attorney general shall appoint a retired judge or justice residing in the state.
- 14 c. The secretary of state shall appoint an expert in civil rights law who resides in the
15 state.
- 16 d. The majority leader of the house of representatives, the minority leader of the
17 house of representatives, the majority leader of the senate, and the minority
18 leader of the senate each shall nominate three individuals. The individuals
19 appointed in subdivisions a, b, and c shall select one of the three nominees of
20 each leader to serve on the commission.
- 21 2. In the year in which the commission members are selected, the commission shall
22 convene and devise a plan that divides the state into forty-seven districts compliant
23 with the requirements of the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of North
24 Dakota, section 54-03-01.5, and other applicable statutes. Before August fifteenth of

1 that year, the commission shall submit the redistricting plan and any other
2 recommendations relating to the redistricting process, along with any legislation
3 necessary to implement the plan and recommendations, to the legislative
4 management. The legislative management shall submit the legislation, as proposed by
5 the commission, to the legislative assembly for consideration by the legislative
6 assembly.

7 **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - NONPARTISAN REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.** It

8 is the intent of the sixty-seventh legislative assembly that the commission created under
9 section 1 of this Act be created upon the effective date of this Act to create a redistricting plan
10 based on the 2020 decennial census.