

JOINT RULES RESOLUTION ON REDISTRICTING STANDARDS

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This joint rules resolution of the Legislature enacts provisions related to redistricting.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ enacts principles and procedures to guide the Legislature during redistricting.

Special Clauses:

None

Legislative Rules Affected:

ENACTS:

JR7-1-101

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. **JR7-1-101** is enacted to read:

TITLE 7. REDISTRICTING

CHAPTER 1. REDISTRICTING PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

JR7-1-101. Redistricting principles and procedures.

(1) When the Legislature exercises its constitutional authority to divide the state into legislative districts, the Legislature shall, to the extent practicable, comply with the following redistricting principles, in the following order of priority:

- (a) comply with the federal and state constitutions;
- (b) ensure that there is substantial equality of population between each district;
- (c) ensure that each district is contiguous;
- (d) ensure that each district is reasonably compact;
- (e) permit small deviations in population between districts for the purpose of complying with the other principles and procedures described in this section;
- (f) follow county and municipal boundaries, to the extent reasonably practicable, by:
- (i) giving first priority to county boundaries and second priority to municipal

- 33 boundaries; and
- 34 (ii) permitting small deviations in population between districts to avoid unnecessary
35 division of counties and municipalities; and
- 36 (g) when creating districts that include areas from more than one county, to the extent
37 practicable:
- 38 (i) join areas of the counties that are directly and proximately connected by a
39 commonly used road;
- 40 (ii) permit small deviations in population between districts, especially in less-populated
41 counties, to improve compactness and permit more effective representation; and
- 42 (iii) join areas of the counties that share common commercial or other interests.
- 43 (2) In addition to the requirements described in Subsection (1), the Legislature shall
44 comply with the following procedures:
- 45 (a) determine the standard district population by dividing the total state population, as
46 determined by the most recent decennial census, by the total number of districts;
- 47 (b) determine each county's district quotient by dividing the population of the county
48 by the standard district population;
- 49 (c) list the counties in descending order from the county with the highest district
50 quotient to the county with the lowest district quotient;
- 51 (d) to determine the presumed number of districts to be formed entirely within a
52 county, round the district quotient of each county with a district quotient of more than one
53 down to the nearest whole number;
- 54 (e) for each county with a district quotient of less than one, list the counties in
55 descending order from the county with the highest district quotient to the county with the
56 lowest district quotient; and
- 57 (f) create districts that include areas from more than one county by:
- 58 (i) to the extent practicable, starting with the undivided area of the counties at the top
59 of the list described in Subsection (2)(e); and
- 60 (ii) combining the areas described in Subsection (2)(f)(i) with areas on the list in
61 adjacent counties, while, to the extent reasonably practicable, keeping the areas in the adjacent
62 counties whole.
- 63 (3) The Legislature should draw legislative districts with the objective of achieving fair

64 and proportional representation of the state's residents in both the Senate and the House of
65 Representatives.

66 (4) This rule does not create a private right of action.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel