

**HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 810**

A bill to provide for the redistricting of congressional districts; and to establish guidelines for the decennial adoption of a redistricting plan for congressional districts.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "congressional redistricting act".

3 Sec. 2. Not later than November 1, 2001, and every 10 years
4 thereafter, the legislature shall enact a redistricting plan for
5 congressional districts apportioned to Michigan.

6 Sec. 3. Except as otherwise required by federal law for
7 congressional districts in this state, the redistricting plan
8 shall be enacted using only these guidelines in the following
9 order of priority:

1 (a) The constitutional guideline is that each congressional
2 district shall achieve precise mathematical equality of
3 population in each district.

4 (b) The federal statutory guidelines in no order of priority
5 are as follows:

6 (i) Each congressional district shall be entitled to elect a
7 single member.

8 (ii) Each congressional district shall not violate section 2
9 of title I of the voting rights act of 1965, Public Law 89-110,
10 42 U.S.C. 1973.

11 (c) The secondary guidelines in order of priority are as
12 follows:

13 (i) Each congressional district shall consist of areas of
14 convenient territory contiguous by land. Areas that meet only at
15 points of adjoining corners are not contiguous.

16 (ii) Congressional district lines shall break as few county
17 boundaries as is reasonably possible.

18 (iii) If it is necessary to break county lines to achieve
19 equality of population between congressional districts as pro-
20 vided in subdivision (a), the number of people necessary to
21 achieve population equality shall be shifted between the 2 dis-
22 tricts affected by the shift.

23 (iv) Congressional district lines shall break as few city
24 and township boundaries as is reasonably possible.

25 (v) If it is necessary to break city or township lines to
26 achieve equality of population between congressional districts as
27 provided in subdivision (a), the number of people necessary to

1 achieve population equality shall be shifted between the 2
2 districts affected by the shift.

3 (vi) Within a city or township to which there is apportioned
4 more than 1 congressional district, district lines shall be drawn
5 to achieve the maximum compactness possible.

6 (vii) Compactness shall be determined by circumscribing each
7 district within a circle of minimum radius and measuring the
8 area, not part of the Great Lakes and not part of another state,
9 inside the circle but not inside the district.

10 (viii) If a discontinuous township island exists within an
11 incorporated city or discontinuous portions of townships are
12 split by an incorporated city, the splitting of the township
13 shall not be considered a split if any of the following circum-
14 stances exist:

15 (A) The city must be split to achieve equality of population
16 between congressional districts as provided in subdivision (a)
17 and it is practicable to keep the township together within 1
18 district.

19 (B) A township island is contained within a whole city and a
20 split of the city would be required to keep the township intact.

21 (C) The discontinuous portion of a township cannot be
22 included in the same district with another portion of the same
23 township without creating a noncontiguous district.

24 (ix) Each congressional district shall be numbered in a reg-
25 ular series, beginning with congressional district 1 in the
26 northwest corner of the state and ending with the highest
27 numbered district in the southeast corner of the state.

SB0810, As Passed House, December 9, 1999

Senate Bill No. 810

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1 Sec. 4. If any portion of this act or the application of
2 this act to any person or circumstances is found to be invalid by
3 a court, the invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions
4 or applications of the act which can be given effect without the
5 invalid portion or application. The provisions of this act are
6 severable.