

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2  
2 INTRODUCED BY L. RANDALL

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4 A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA PROVIDING  
5 RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING PLAN TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND  
6 APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION.

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8 WHEREAS, the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission submitted its legislative redistricting  
9 plan to the Legislature on January 8, 2013, as required by Article V, section 14, of the Montana Constitution; and

10 WHEREAS, the Commission adopted criteria to guide the drawing of district lines that preserve the  
11 principle of "one person, one vote"; and

12 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives commends the Commission for establishing a maximum 3%  
13 population deviation, which surpasses the standard of a 5% population deviation; and

14 WHEREAS, the Commission formed districts that successfully comply with all requirements of the federal  
15 Voting Rights Act and that protect the voting rights of minority populations; and

16 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives contends that criteria directing the creation of compact and  
17 contiguous districts that preserve communities of interest and, when possible, follow the lines of political and  
18 geographic boundaries have not been satisfactorily adhered to; and

19 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives contends that the proposed plan does not pass a general  
20 appearance test regarding compactness in numerous instances, particularly House Districts 24 and 25 in  
21 Cascade County, House Districts 47, 48, 49, and 50 in Yellowstone County, House District 66 in Gallatin County,  
22 House District 81 in Lewis and Clark County, and House District 96 in Missoula County; and

23 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives contends that pairings of House Districts made to form Senate  
24 Districts fracture communities of interest, particularly the assignments of House Districts 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and  
25 79 in Deer Lodge, Jefferson, and Silver Bow Counties; and

26 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives contends that holdover Senators Kaufmann and Webb have  
27 been assigned to Senate Districts predominantly composed of citizens who have never had the opportunity to  
28 vote for these officials, when it is possible to assign them to districts that include significant populations from their  
29 original Senate Districts; and

30 WHEREAS, the Legislature is required to return the plan to the Commission with its recommendations

1 on or before February 7, 2013.

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3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
4 MONTANA:

5 That the House of Representatives urges the passage of amendments necessary for the Legislative  
6 Redistricting Plan to conform to the Commission's established criteria. To this end, the House of Representatives  
7 recommends that the Commission consider the following amendments:

8 (1) redraw House Districts 24 and 25 in Cascade County, House Districts 47, 48, 49, and 50 in  
9 Yellowstone County, House District 66 in Gallatin County, House District 81 in Lewis and Clark County, and  
10 House District 96 in Missoula County to better meet the standard of a general appearance test regarding  
11 compactness. A compact district would be more square-like, as opposed to a long rectangle.

12 (2) preserve both compactness and communities of interest by reassigning the following House Districts  
13 into Senate District pairings: House Districts 73 and 76, House Districts 74 and 77, and House Districts 75 and  
14 78. The House District lines for Districts 74 and 77 should be moved together in order to meet the contiguous  
15 standard in the Commission's criteria.

16 (3) reassign the following holdover Senators to Senate Districts that include the communities from which  
17 they were originally elected:

18 (a) Senator Kaufmann from Senate District 40 to Senate District 41; and

19 (b) Senator Webb from Senate District 23 to Senate District 22.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be kept on file by the Secretary of State and  
21 that copies be sent by the Secretary of State to the presiding officer and each member of the Montana Districting  
22 and Apportionment Commission.

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