

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

3
 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.

7
 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~~ 23 AND
 21 24 in Cascade County, House Districts 47, 48, 49, and 50 in Yellowstone County, House District 66 in Gallatin
 22 County, House District 81 in Lewis and Clark County, and House District 96 in Missoula County; and

23 ~~WHEREAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONTENDS THAT THE PROPOSED PLAN DOES NOT ADEQUATELY~~
 24 ~~CONSIDER THE FUNCTIONAL COMPACTNESS OF DISTRICTS AS REQUIRED IN THE COMMISSION'S CRITERIA; IN PARTICULAR,~~
 25 ~~HOUSE DISTRICT 13 INCLUDES A PORTION OF FLATHEAD COUNTY CONTAINING KILA AND MARION THAT IS NOT ACCESSIBLE~~
 26 ~~BY VEHICLE FROM THE MAIN WESTERN SANDERS COUNTY PORTION OF THE DISTRICT WITHOUT HAVING TO LEAVE THE~~
 27 ~~DISTRICT AND ITS RESIDENTS SHARE LITTLE IN COMMON WITH SANDERS COUNTY RESIDENTS; AND~~

28 ~~WHEREAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONTENDS THAT THE PROPOSED PLAN FRACTURES~~
 29 ~~COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST IN HOUSE DISTRICTS 21, 23, 77, 78, 82, AND 84; AND~~

30 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives contends that pairings of House Districts made to form Senate

1 Districts fracture communities of interest, particularly the assignments of House Districts 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and
2 79 in Deer Lodge, Jefferson, and Silver Bow Counties; and

3 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives contends that holdover ~~Senators Kaufmann and Webb have~~
4 ~~been assigned to Senate Districts predominantly composed of citizens who have never had the opportunity to~~
5 ~~vote for these officials, when it is possible to assign them to districts that include significant populations from their~~
6 ~~original Senate Districts~~ SENATOR WEBB IS ASSIGNED TO A SENATE DISTRICT PREDOMINANTLY COMPOSED OF CITIZENS
7 WHO HAVE NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE FOR HIM, WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE TO ASSIGN HIM TO A DISTRICT THAT
8 INCLUDES SIGNIFICANT POPULATIONS FROM HIS ORIGINAL SENATE DISTRICT; and

9 WHEREAS, the Legislature is required to return the plan to the Commission with its recommendations
10 on or before February 7, 2013.

11
12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
13 MONTANA:

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

17 (1) redraw House Districts ~~24 and 25~~ 21 AND 23 in Cascade County, House Districts 47, 48, 49, and 50
18 in Yellowstone County, House District 66 in Gallatin County, House ~~District 84~~ DISTRICTS 82 AND 84 in Lewis and
19 Clark County, and House District 96 in Missoula County to better meet the standard of a general appearance test
20 regarding compactness. A compact district would be more square-like, as opposed to a long rectangle.

21 ~~(2) REDRAW HOUSE DISTRICT 13 AND ANY SURROUNDING DISTRICTS AS NECESSARY TO CREATE DISTRICTS IN~~
22 ~~THE AREA THAT ARE FUNCTIONALLY COMPACT;~~

23 ~~(2)(3)(2)~~ preserve both compactness and communities of interest by reassigning the following House
24 Districts into Senate District pairings: House Districts 73 and 76, House Districts 74 and 77, and House Districts
25 75 and 78. The House District lines for Districts 74 and 77 should be moved together in order to meet the
26 contiguous standard in the Commission's criteria.

27 ~~(4)(3)~~ REDRAW HOUSE DISTRICTS 77 AND 78 TO KEEP THE TOWN OF ANACONDA WHOLE; AND

28 ~~(3)(5)(4)~~ reassign the following holdover Senators to Senate Districts that include the communities from
29 which they were originally elected:

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

