

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

2 INTRODUCED BY J. ELLSWORTH

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

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8 WHEREAS, the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission submitted its legislative  
9 redistricting plan to the Legislature on January 6, 2023, as required by Article V, section 14, of the Montana  
10 Constitution; and

11 WHEREAS, the Montana Constitution requires the Commission to submit a proposed plan to the  
12 Legislature for recommendations to alter the proposal; and

13 WHEREAS, the Montana Constitution mandates that districts must be as equal in population as is  
14 practicable and be compact and contiguous; and

15 WHEREAS, the Commission established a maximum average standard deviation of plus or minus 1%,  
16 which surpasses the standards of the 2013 Commission, which maintained a standard deviation of 3%; and

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

19 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that further changes to the boundaries of the majority-minority  
20 districts on the Commission's tentative map may undermine the consensus work of the Commission to keep  
21 reservation communities of interest together and avoid minority vote dilution; and

22 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the Commission's tentative map does not meet Montana's state  
23 constitutional mandate of compactness in urban areas in Missoula County, Lewis and Clark County, and  
24 Gallatin County; and

25 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the Commission's tentative map does follow its own criterion for  
26 functional compactness in several areas around the state; and

27 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not follow its criterion to minimize the splitting of  
28 municipalities whenever possible, such as the city of Whitefish; and

