Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Kim Abbott - (S) State Administration

68th Legislature - 2023 Drafter: Rachel Weiss, 406-444-5367 SJ0008.001.002

1	SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8
2	INTRODUCED BY J. ELLSWORTH
3	
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.
7	
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



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1	WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not follow its criterion to consider
2	competitiveness of proposed districts; and
3	WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not follow its mandatory criterion for keeping
4	communities of interest whole; and
5	WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not apply its criterion consistently when drawing
6	legislative districts; and
7	WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not follow its criterion to keep communities of
8	interest intact when pairing House districts into Senate districts, including in Flathead County and districts in
9	Granite, Powell, Lewis and Clark, and Jefferson Counties.
10	
11	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
12	THE STATE OF MONTANA:
13	That the Legislature exercises its constitutional role of recommendation to urge the passage of
14	amendments necessary for the Legislative Redistricting Plan to conform to the Commission's established
15	criteria. To this end, the Legislature recommends that the Commission consider the following amendments:
16	(1) redraw as necessary to keep cities intact;
17	(2) redraw noncompact districts while also following the Commission's criterion of looking at district
18	competitiveness; and
19	(3) keep established communities of interest intact by reconfiguring House pairings to Senate
20	seats.
21	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be kept on file with the Secretary of State
22	and that copies be sent by the Secretary of State to the presiding officer and each member of the Montana
23	Districting and Apportionment Commission.
24	- END -

