

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, many other states do not have statutory or constitutional directives requiring districts to be
16 compact and contiguous, and, for those states that do have directives, many qualify the requirement with
17 language saying that it must be done only "to the extent practicable"; and

18 WHEREAS, Montana's constitutional imperative for compact and contiguous districts is not diluted with
19 this type of exception; and

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

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

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

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

