
Introduced by Senator Johnson

February 23, 2001

An act to add Section 21004 to the Elections Code, relating to redistricting, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 967, as introduced, Johnson. Redistricting procedures.

The California Constitution requires the Legislature to adjust the boundary lines of Senate, Assembly, congressional, and Board of Equalization districts in the year following the year in which the national decennial census is taken.

This bill would state certain findings and declarations by the Legislature regarding the redistricting of these electoral districts. It would specify certain procedures to be implemented by the Legislature, including open hearings, posting of redistricting plans on the Internet, and a 2-week public hearing period on redistricting plans.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 21004 is added to the Elections Code,
- 2 to read:
- 3 21004. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the following:
- 4 (1) Fair redistricting is essential to representative democracy.

1 (2) Unfair redistricting dilutes the political power of voters,
2 reduces competition for elective office, and destroys public
3 confidence in government.

4 (3) Redistricting plans should be based on input from a fair and
5 open process to ensure fair representation for all people of the
6 state, including ethnic, racial, and language minorities, and should
7 avoid political gerrymandering.

8 (4) The general public truly benefits from a fair and accurate
9 redistricting plan.

10 (b) In undertaking its constitutional responsibility to adjust the
11 boundaries of California’s State Senate, Assembly, congressional,
12 and Board of Equalization districts, the Legislature shall solicit
13 input from the public to help guide its efforts. That input shall
14 include, but not be limited to, the following:

15 (1) Conducting a series of fair and open hearings throughout
16 the state at which criteria for redistricting plans are presented and
17 openly discussed.

18 (2) Making immediately available on the Internet Assembly,
19 Senate, congressional, and Board of Equalization plans passed by
20 a legislative committee or passed out of either the Assembly or
21 Senate. These plans shall include detailed maps at or below the
22 census tract levels, description of the cities and counties contained
23 in each district, and available political and ethnic make-ups of the
24 districts.

25 (3) Requiring a reasonable public hearing period of no less than
26 two weeks starting from the point the final plans are made
27 available on the Internet.

28 SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
29 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety
30 within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go
31 into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

32 In order that new Assembly, Senate, congressional, and Board
33 of Equalization districts may be created as soon as possible so that
34 the constitutional rights of voters may be protected, it is necessary
35 that this act take effect immediately.

