

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Counties-election districts.

Sponsored by: Joint Corporations, Elections and Political
Subdivisions Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to county commissions; providing for
2 districting by single member districts, at large
3 representation or any combination of both; providing
4 authority to county commissions to create and amend county
5 commissioner districts without election as specified;
6 providing terms of county commissioners subject to
7 districting and redistricting; and providing for an
8 effective date.

9

10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

11

12 **Section 1.** W.S. 18-3-501(h) and by creating a new
13 subsection (k) is amended to read:

1

2 **18-3-501. Composition; election for increasing the**3 **number; term; quorum; election for districting; procedures.**

4

5 (h) If the proposition for districting is approved,
6 the board of county commissioners shall devise a
7 districting plan dividing the county into five (5)
8 districts as nearly equal in population as practicable
9 considering the geographic, economic and social
10 characteristics of the county. The districting plan shall
11 be made before March 1 next following the election at which
12 the proposition for districting is approved and shall be
13 effective as of March 1 the following year. The
14 districting plan may provide that any commissioner elected
15 after the effective date of the districting plan shall
16 reside in and represent the district from which he is
17 elected by the electors of that district, that
18 commissioners may serve at large or that district
19 representation may be apportioned in any combination of
20 single member and at large representation, provided that in
21 all cases commissioners represent a population as nearly
22 equal as is practicable considering the geographic,
23 economic and social characteristics of the county.

1 Commissioners in office on the effective date of the
2 districting plan shall serve the county at large until the
3 regular expiration of their term. The districting plan
4 shall designate which districts shall elect county
5 commissioners in the general election next following the
6 effective date of the districting plan. In any county in
7 which the voters approved increasing the number of
8 commissioners and districting at the same election, the
9 districting plan shall also designate which district shall
10 elect a county commissioner at the next general election
11 for a term of two (2) years, as provided by subsection (b)
12 of this section. The ballot shall state the term in the
13 designated district to be for two (2) years. Thereafter,
14 all terms shall be four (4) years.

15

16 (k) If required to do so pursuant to a final court
17 order or changes in population affecting the
18 constitutionality of a current districting plan, the board
19 of county commissioners may by resolution devise a
20 districting or redistricting plan dividing the county into
21 any number of districts necessary to meet the requirements
22 of the court order or necessary to address the population
23 changes. A districting or redistricting plan devised under

1 this subsection may include single member districts in
2 which the candidates must reside and which are apportioned
3 by population, districts in which candidates are elected at
4 large, or any combination of districts in which candidates
5 must reside and are apportioned by population or are
6 elected at large provided that in all cases commissioners
7 represent a population as nearly equal as is practicable
8 considering the geographic, economic and social
9 characteristics of the county. A districting or
10 redistricting plan created under this subsection shall not
11 be subject to a vote of the electors and shall go into
12 effect after the next general election. A districting or
13 redistricting plan created under this subsection shall
14 provide for at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the
15 commissioners to serve an initial term of two (2) years and
16 the remainder to serve an initial term of four (4) years.
17 Thereafter, all terms shall be four (4) years. The terms
18 of all commissioners serving at the time of the approval of
19 the districting or redistricting plan shall expire at the
20 end of the current year and all offices created under this
21 subsection shall be filled at the general election held on
22 the effective date of the districting plan.

23

1 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
3 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
4 Constitution.

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6

(END)