

House Resolution 237 (AM)

By: Representative Franklin of the 43<sup>rd</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing redistricting standards for use by the House of Representatives; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the drafting and consideration of legislation to redistrict congressional  
4 districts and House and Senate districts, standards are needed to guide the members of this  
5 body in determining proper district configurations; and

6 WHEREAS, such standards are a useful tool in constructing and evaluating plans for  
7 redistricting to ensure that districts are fairly drawn in a rational manner; and

8 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the members of this body set forth the standards and  
9 principles that they will follow with regard to redistricting.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
11 these are the redistricting standards that will be used by this body in drafting redistricting  
12 plans and in evaluating redistricting plans that come before this body:

13 For congressional districts, the General Assembly shall by general law apportion  
14 congressional districts in accordance with the following standards:

15 (1) All districts shall comply with the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights  
16 Act of 1965, as amended;

17 (2) All districts shall be composed of contiguous territory. Districts that connect on a  
18 single point are not contiguous;

19 (3) All districts shall be compact in form. Bizarre shapes shall be avoided;

20 (4) No district shall divide a community of interest unless necessary to comply with  
21 federal standards. A community of interest may be defined by a variety of factors,  
22 including, but not limited to, economic, social, and cultural factors, government services,  
23 and location;

24 (5) Districts shall divide as few counties and recognized political boundaries as is  
25 practicable to comply with the other standards; and

1 (6) No district shall be established with the intent of diluting the voting strength of any  
2 person, group of persons, or members of any political party. Data reflecting past partisan  
3 voting behavior shall not be solely considered.

4 No standard shall be afforded greater weight than any other standard. Minor deviations  
5 from one or more of such standards shall be permitted if necessary to conform a plan to the  
6 other standards. The requirements, however, of the United States Constitution and the  
7 Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, shall be given priority should those requirements  
8 conflict with any other standard.

9 For the redistricting of the General Assembly, the General Assembly shall by general law  
10 apportion representative districts and senatorial districts in accordance with the following  
11 standards:

12 (1) All districts shall comply with the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights  
13 Act of 1965, as amended;

14 (2) All districts in an apportionment plan for the Senate or House of Representatives  
15 shall have a deviation of not more than plus or minus 2.5 percent from the ideal  
16 population size to ensure that each person to be elected under such plan represents, as  
17 nearly as possible, an equal number of inhabitants of the state;

18 (3) All districts shall be composed of contiguous territory. Districts that connect on a  
19 single point are not contiguous;

20 (4) All districts shall be compact in form. Bizarre shapes shall be avoided;

21 (5) No district shall divide a community of interest unless necessary to comply with  
22 federal standards. A community of interest may be defined by a variety of factors,  
23 including, but not limited to, economic, social, and cultural factors, government services,  
24 and location;

25 (6) Districts shall divide as few counties and recognized political boundaries as is  
26 practicable to comply with the other standards;

27 (7) No district shall be established with the intent of diluting the voting strength of any  
28 person, group of persons, or members of any political party. Data reflecting past partisan  
29 voting behavior shall not be solely considered; and

30 (8) Single-member districts shall be used in all cases and multimember districts shall be  
31 prohibited.

32 No standard shall be afforded greater weight than any other standard. Minor deviations  
33 from one or more of such standards shall be permitted if necessary to conform a plan to the  
34 other standards. The requirements, however, of the United States Constitution and the  
35 Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, shall be given priority should those requirements  
36 conflict with any other standard.