

SENATE FILE NO. SF0014

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.

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

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

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15 **18-3-501. Composition; election for increasing the**
16 **number; term; quorum; election for districting; procedures.**

1

2 (h) If the proposition for districting is approved,
3 the board of county commissioners shall devise a
4 districting plan dividing the county into five (5)
5 districts as nearly equal in population as practicable
6 considering the geographic, economic and social
7 characteristics of the county. The districting plan shall
8 be made before March 1 next following the election at which
9 the proposition for districting is approved and shall be
10 effective as of March 1 the following year. The
11 districting plan may provide that any commissioner elected
12 after the effective date of the districting plan shall
13 reside in and represent the district from which he is
14 elected by the electors of that district, and, beginning
15 January 1, 2012, that commissioners may serve at large or
16 that district representation may be apportioned in any
17 combination of single member and at large representation,
18 provided that in all cases commissioners represent a
19 population as nearly equal as is practicable considering
20 the geographic, economic and social characteristics of the
21 county. Commissioners in office on the effective date of
22 the districting plan shall serve the county at large until
23 the regular expiration of their term. The districting plan
24 shall designate which districts shall elect county

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

11

12 (k) If required to do so pursuant to a final court
13 order or changes in population affecting the
14 constitutionality of a current districting plan, the board
15 of county commissioners may by resolution devise a
16 districting or redistricting plan dividing the county into
17 any number of districts necessary to meet the requirements
18 of the court order or necessary to address the population
19 changes. A districting or redistricting plan devised under
20 this subsection may include single member districts in
21 which the candidates must reside and which are apportioned
22 by population, districts in which candidates are elected at
23 large, or any combination of districts in which candidates
24 must reside and are apportioned by population or are

1 elected at large provided that in all cases commissioners
2 represent a population as nearly equal as is practicable
3 considering the geographic, economic and social
4 characteristics of the county. A districting or
5 redistricting plan created under this subsection shall not
6 be subject to a vote of the electors and shall go into
7 effect after the next general election and shall be subject
8 to the following:

9
10 (i) An initial districting plan created under
11 this subsection shall provide for at least fifty-one
12 percent (51%) of the commissioners to serve an initial term
13 of two (2) years and the remainder to serve an initial term
14 of four (4) years. Thereafter, all terms shall be four (4)
15 years. The terms of all commissioners serving at the time
16 of the approval of the districting plan shall expire at the
17 end of the current year and all offices created under this
18 subsection shall be filled at the general election held on
19 the effective date of the districting plan;

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21 (ii) For a redistricting plan, commissioners in
22 office on the effective date of the districting plan shall
23 serve the county at large until the regular expiration of
24 their term, if practical. The county commission shall

1 determine whether honoring the four (4) year terms is
2 practical.

3

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

8

9

(END)