

# SENATE BILL No. 80

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 2-1-9-13.

**Synopsis:** Legislative district guidelines. Establishes standards for drawing legislative districts.

**Effective:** July 1, 2010.

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### Lawson C

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January 5, 2010, read first time and referred to Committee on Elections.

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Second Regular Session 116th General Assembly (2010)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2009 Regular and Special Sessions of the General Assembly.

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# SENATE BILL No. 80



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning the general assembly.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 2-1-9-13 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
3 1, 2010]: **Sec. 13. (a) Legislative districts established under this**  
4 **article must satisfy the following standards:**

- 5 (1) **Districts must preserve traditional neighborhoods.**
- 6 (2) **Districts must preserve local communities of interest based**  
7 **upon cultural, ethnic, geographic, and socioeconomic**  
8 **similarities.**
- 9 (3) **Districts must protect minority voting rights consistent**  
10 **with the United States Constitution and the Constitution of**  
11 **the State of Indiana, as interpreted by the federal and Indiana**  
12 **courts.**
- 13 (4) **Districts must be compact, particularly where population**  
14 **density is greatest, to avoid dividing communities of interest.**
- 15 (5) **Districts must have simple shapes. However, rational and**  
16 **logical deviations may occur in a district's boundaries to**  
17 **follow a political subdivision's boundaries or to follow natural**



1           **geographic boundaries.**  
2           **(6) Districts must respect county boundary lines. However, a**  
3           **district boundary may cross a county boundary to preserve**  
4           **economic, social, and geographic populations and to**  
5           **approximate the ideal population of the district as closely as**  
6           **possible. The number of counties used to comprise a district**  
7           **should be kept to a minimum, and the counties within a**  
8           **district should be as contiguous as possible.**  
9           **(7) To prevent division of communities of interest, prevent**  
10          **voter confusion, and minimize administrative costs of**  
11          **elections, districts must, when practicable, not divide**  
12          **precincts.**  
13          **(b) Districts may deviate from the standards stated in subsection**  
14          **(a) and may satisfy other factors when appropriate.**

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