

S.11

An act relating to limiting senatorial districts to a maximum of three members

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. chapter 34A is amended to read:

CHAPTER 34A. PERIODIC REAPPORTIONMENT

§ 1901. PURPOSE

The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires all state legislative bodies to be apportioned in such manner as to achieve substantially equal weighting of the votes of all voters in the choice of legislators. To comply with such requirement it will be necessary to reapportion the House of Representatives and the Senate at periodic intervals, so that changes may be recognized in legislative apportionment. It is the purpose of this chapter to achieve such reapportionment in an orderly and impartial manner.

\* \* \*

§ 1907. SENATE APPORTIONMENT

(a)(1) On or before July 1 of each year following the taking of a decennial census under the authority of Congress, the Board shall prepare a proposal for reapportionment of the Senate, apportioning the 30 senatorial seats among the counties or combinations of counties with a maximum of three members in each proposed district, and in such manner as to achieve substantial equality in

the choice of members as guaranteed by the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

(2) The Chair of the Board shall transmit such proposal to the Secretary of the Senate and it shall be referred to the appropriate committee.

(b) The General Assembly shall then accept the proposal and enact it into law or enact into law a substitute ~~another~~ plan for reapportionment of the Senate that limits each senatorial district to a maximum of three members.

\* \* \*

#### Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2021.