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S.11

Introduced by Senators Ashe, Benning, and Sirotkin

Referred to Committee on Government Operations

Date: January 15, 2019

Subject: Elections; General Assembly; periodic reapportionment; senatorial
districts; limitation

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to limit
senatorial districts to a maximum of three members beginning at the
2022 General Election.

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

1 Representatives and the Senate at periodic intervals, so that changes may be
2 recognized in legislative apportionment. It is the purpose of this chapter to
3 achieve such reapportionment in an orderly and impartial manner.

4 * * *

5 § 1907. SENATE APPORTIONMENT

6 (a)(1) On or before July 1 of each year following the taking of a decennial
7 census under the authority of Congress, the Board shall prepare a proposal for
8 reapportionment of the Senate, apportioning the 30 senatorial seats among the
9 counties or combinations of counties with a maximum of three members in
10 each proposed district, and in such manner as to achieve substantial equality in
11 the choice of members as guaranteed by the Equal Protection Clause of the
12 Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

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

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

18 * * *

19 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on January 1, 2021.