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H.589

Introduced by Committee on Government Operations

Date:

Subject: Legislature; reapportionment; redistricting; initial districts

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes an outline of the initial districts of the House of Representatives.

An act relating to reapportioning the initial districts of the House of Representatives

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

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; INTENT

(a) Legislative Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 1903, the State uses the U.S. decennial census data to reapportion the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(2) The U.S. Census Bureau delayed its release of the Vermont redistricting dataset of the 2020 United States decennial census by approximately five months in 2021, which resulted in significant delays in the start of the State’s reapportionment process.

(3) In recognition of the Legislative Apportionment Board’s inability to meet the August 15, 2021 reapportionment submission deadline imposed pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §§ 1905, 1906, and 1907 because of the delayed dataset

1 release, in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 11 the General Assembly authorized
2 the Legislative Apportionment Board to submit its final proposals for the
3 reapportionment of the House and the Senate not later than 90 days from the
4 date of the U.S. Census Bureau released the Vermont redistricting dataset of
5 the 2020 United States decennial census.

6 (4) The Legislative Apportionment Board submitted its final House
7 proposal to the Clerk of the House on November 30, 2021, significantly later
8 than the customary submission date of August 15 in prior reapportionment
9 cycles. The Chair of the Legislative Apportionment Board presented to the
10 House Committee on Government Operations on December 8, 2021, regarding
11 the Board's work on the adopted House proposal and the alternate House
12 proposal. The Legislative Apportionment Board did not finalize and approve
13 its written report to the General Assembly regarding its adopted House
14 proposal and alternate House proposal until January 5, 2022.

15 (5) In recent reapportionment cycles, the House committee of
16 jurisdiction has held hearings throughout the State during the fall, after the
17 submission of the Legislative Apportionment Board's final House proposal, to
18 hear from cities and towns on both the Board's House proposal and on any
19 other redistricting matters.

20 (6) Due to the U.S. Census Bureau's delayed release of the 2020
21 redistricting dataset, and the resulting delay for the Legislative Apportionment

1 Board’s work, the House Committee on Government Operations has not been
2 able to complete its customary reapportionment work prior to the beginning of
3 the legislative session.

4 (b) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to propose the initial
5 district plan described in this act to cities, towns, and boards of civil authority
6 as a starting point to receive testimony and feedback on the reapportionment of
7 the House of Representatives. The initial district plan described in this act is
8 not intended to describe any final district lines for the 2022 reapportionment of
9 the House of Representatives. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the
10 House Committee on Government Operations conduct public hearings, take
11 testimony from boards of civil authority, and request feedback on district lines
12 from cities and towns prior to the General Assembly’s enactment of final
13 district lines.

14 Sec. 2. REAPPORTIONMENT; INITIAL HOUSE DISTRICTS PLAN

15 Notwithstanding 17 V.S.A. § 1893 or any other provision of law to the
16 contrary, the following shall be the initial district reapportionment plan
17 proposed to cities and towns for purposes of receiving proposals for
18 subdivision of districts under 17 V.S.A. §§ 1906b–1906c:

19	<u>ADDISON-1</u>	<u>Middlebury</u>	<u>2</u>
20	<u>ADDISON-2</u>	<u>Cornwall, Goshen, Leicester, Ripton, and</u>	
21		<u>Salisbury</u>	<u>1</u>

1	<u>ADDISON-3</u>	<u>Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes, and that</u>	
2		<u>portion of the town of Monkton not included in</u>	
3		<u>ADDISON-4</u>	<u>2</u>
4	<u>ADDISON-4</u>	<u>Bristol, Lincoln, Starksboro, and that portion of the</u>	
5		<u>town of Monkton not included in ADDISON-3</u>	<u>2</u>
6	<u>ADDISON-5</u>	<u>Bridport, New Haven, Waltham, and Weybridge</u>	<u>1</u>
7	<u>ADDISON-</u>		
8	<u>RUTLAND</u>	<u>Hubbardton, Orwell, Shoreham, Sudbury, and Whiting</u>	
9			<u>1</u>
10	<u>BENNINGTON-1</u>	<u>Readsboro, Stamford, and that portion of the town of</u>	
11		<u>Pownal not included in BENNINGTON-2-2</u>	<u>1</u>
12	<u>BENNINGTON-2-1</u>	<u>Woodford, Searsburg, and that portion of Bennington</u>	
13		<u>not included in BENNINGTON-2-2</u>	<u>2</u>
14	<u>BENNINGTON-2-2</u>	<u>That portion of the town of Pownal not included in</u>	
15		<u>BENNINGTON-1 and that portion of the town of</u>	
16		<u>Bennington not included in BENNINGTON-2-1</u>	<u>2</u>
17	<u>BENNINGTON-3</u>	<u>Glastenbury, Shaftsbury, and that portion of the town of</u>	
18		<u>Sunderland not included in BENNINGTON-4</u>	<u>1</u>
19	<u>BENNINGTON-4</u>	<u>Arlington, Manchester, Sandgate, and that portion of the</u>	
20		<u>town of Sunderland not included in BENNINGTON-3</u>	
21			<u>2</u>

1	<u>BENNINGTON-</u>		
2	<u>RUTLAND</u>	<u>Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Mount Tabor, and Peru</u>	<u>1</u>
3	<u>CALEDONIA-1</u>	<u>Barnet, Ryegate, and Waterford</u>	<u>1</u>
4	<u>CALEDONIA-2</u>	<u>Hardwick, Stannard, and Walden</u>	<u>1</u>
5	<u>CALEDONIA-3</u>	<u>Lyndon, Newark, Sheffield, Sutton, and Wheelock</u>	<u>2</u>
6	<u>CALEDONIA-</u>	<u>Concord, Kirby, and St. Johnsbury</u>	<u>2</u>
7	<u>ESSEX</u>		
8	<u>CALEDONIA-</u>		
9	<u>WASHINGTON</u>	<u>Cabot, Danville, and Peacham</u>	<u>1</u>
10	<u>CHITTENDEN-1</u>	<u>Richmond</u>	<u>1</u>
11	<u>CHITTENDEN-2</u>	<u>That portion of Williston not included in</u>	
12		<u>CHITTENDEN-7</u>	<u>2</u>
13	<u>CHITTENDEN-3</u>	<u>Jericho and Underhill</u>	<u>2</u>
14	<u>CHITTENDEN-4-1</u>	<u>Charlotte and that portion of Hinesburg not</u>	
15		<u>not included in CHITTENDEN-4-2</u>	<u>1</u>
16	<u>CHITTENDEN-4-2</u>	<u>That portion of the town of Hinesburg</u>	
17		<u>not included in CHITTENDEN-4-1</u>	<u>1</u>
18	<u>CHITTENDEN-5</u>	<u>St. George and Shelburne</u>	<u>2</u>
19	<u>CHITTENDEN-6</u>	<u>Burlington and Winooski</u>	<u>12</u>
20	<u>CHITTENDEN-7</u>	<u>South Burlington and that portion of the town of</u>	
21		<u>Williston not included in CHITTENDEN-2</u>	<u>5</u>

1	<u>CHITTENDEN-8</u>	<u>Essex, Westford, that portion of Colchester not included</u>	
2		<u>in CHITTENDEN-9, and that portion of the town of</u>	
3		<u>Milton not included in CHITTENDEN-9 or</u>	
4		<u>CHITTENDEN-10</u>	<u>6</u>
5	<u>CHITTENDEN-9</u>	<u>That portion of Colchester not included in</u>	
6		<u>CHITTENDEN-8 and that portion of Milton not</u>	
7		<u>included in CHITTENDEN-8 or CHITTENDEN-10</u>	
8			<u>4</u>
9	<u>CHITTENDEN-10</u>	<u>That portion of the town of Milton not included in</u>	
10		<u>CHITTENDEN-9</u>	<u>2</u>
11	<u>ESSEX-</u>		
12	<u>CALEDONIA</u>	<u>Bloomfield, Brunswick, Burke, East Haven,</u>	
13		<u>Ferdinand, Granby, Guildhall, Lunenburg,</u>	
14		<u>Maidstone, and Victory</u>	<u>1</u>
15	<u>ESSEX-</u>		
16	<u>CALEDONIA-</u>		
17	<u>ORLEANS</u>	<u>Averill, Avery's Gore, Brighton, Canaan, Charleston,</u>	
18		<u>Holland, Lemington, Lewis, Morgan, Norton, Warner's</u>	
19		<u>Grant, and Warren Gore</u>	<u>1</u>
20	<u>FRANKLIN-1</u>	<u>Georgia and that portion of the town of Fairfax not</u>	
21		<u>included in FRANKLIN-6</u>	<u>2</u>

1	<u>FRANKLIN-3</u>	<u>St. Albans City and that portion of St. Albans</u>	
2		<u>Town not included in FRANKLIN-4</u>	<u>3</u>
3	<u>FRANKLIN-4</u>	<u>Fairfield; Highgate; Sheldon; St. Albans Town, except</u>	
4		<u>that portion of the town included in FRANKLIN-3; and</u>	
5		<u>that portion of the town of Swanton not included in</u>	
6		<u>GRAND ISLE-FRANKLIN</u>	<u>2</u>
7	<u>FRANKLIN-5</u>	<u>Bakersfield, Berkshire, Enosburgh, Franklin,</u>	
8		<u>Montgomery, and Richford</u>	<u>2</u>
9	<u>FRANKLIN-6</u>	<u>Fairfield, Fletcher, and that portion of the town of</u>	
10		<u>Fairfax not included in FRANKLIN-1</u>	<u>1</u>
11	<u>GRAND-ISLE</u>	<u>Grand Isle, South Hero, and that portion of the town</u>	
12		<u>of North Hero not included in GRAND-ISLE-</u>	
13		<u>FRANKLIN</u>	<u>1</u>
14	<u>GRAND-ISLE-</u>		
15	<u>FRANKLIN</u>	<u>Alburgh, Isle La Motte, that portion of the town of</u>	
16		<u>North Hero not included in GRAND-ISLE, and that</u>	
17		<u>portion of the town of Swanton not included in</u>	
18		<u>FRANKLIN-4</u>	<u>2</u>
19	<u>LAMOILLE-1</u>	<u>That portion of the town of Stowe not included in</u>	
20		<u>LAMOILLE-WASHINGTON</u>	<u>1</u>
21	<u>LAMOILLE-2</u>	<u>Belvedere, Hyde Park, Johnson, and Wolcott</u>	<u>2</u>

1	<u>LAMOILLE-3</u>	<u>Cambridge and Waterville</u>	<u>1</u>
2	<u>LAMOILLE-</u>		
3	<u>WASHINGTON</u>	<u>Elmore, Morristown, Woodbury, Worcester, and that</u>	
4		<u>portion of the town of Stowe not included in</u>	
5		<u>LAMOILLE-1</u>	<u>2</u>
6	<u>ORANGE-1</u>	<u>Chelsea, Corinth, Vershire, Washington, and</u>	
7		<u>Williamstown</u>	<u>2</u>
8	<u>ORANGE-2</u>	<u>Bradford, Fairlee, and West Fairlee</u>	<u>1</u>
9	<u>ORANGE-</u>		
10	<u>CALEDONIA</u>	<u>Groton, Newbury, and Topsham</u>	<u>1</u>
11	<u>ORANGE-</u>		
12	<u>WASHINGTON</u>	<u>Braintree, Brookfield, Randolph, and Roxbury</u>	<u>2</u>
13	<u>ORLEANS-1-1</u>	<u>Derby</u>	<u>1</u>
14	<u>ORLEANS-1-2</u>	<u>Barton, Brownington, and Westmore</u>	<u>1</u>
15	<u>ORLEANS-2-1</u>	<u>Coventry, Irasburg, Town of Newport, and that portion</u>	
16		<u>of the town of Troy not included in ORLEANS-</u>	
17		<u>LAMOILLE</u>	<u>1</u>
18	<u>ORLEANS-2-2</u>	<u>City of Newport</u>	<u>1</u>
19	<u>ORLEANS-3</u>	<u>Albany, Craftsbury, Glover, and Greensboro</u>	<u>1</u>

1	<u>ORLEANS-</u>		
2	<u>LAMOILLE</u>	<u>Eden, Jay, Lowell, Westfield, and that portion</u>	
3		<u>of the town of Troy not included in ORLEANS-2-1</u>	<u>1</u>
4	<u>RUTLAND-</u>		
5	<u>BENNINGTON</u>	<u>Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rupert, Tinmouth, and that</u>	
6		<u>portion of the town of Wells not in RUTLAND-1</u>	<u>1</u>
7	<u>RUTLAND-1</u>	<u>Ira, Poultney, and that portion of the town of Wells not</u>	
8		<u>included in RUTLAND-BENNINGTON</u>	<u>1</u>
9	<u>RUTLAND-2</u>	<u>Clarendon, Proctor, Wallingford, West Rutland, and that</u>	
10		<u>portion of the town of Mount Holly not included in</u>	
11		<u>RUTLAND-WINDSOR-2</u>	<u>2</u>
12	<u>RUTLAND-3-1</u>	<u>Castleton</u>	<u>1</u>
13	<u>RUTLAND-3-2</u>	<u>Benson, Fair Haven, and West Haven</u>	<u>1</u>
14	<u>RUTLAND-4</u>	<u>That portion of Rutland Town not included in</u>	
15		<u>RUTLAND-5 and that portion of the town of Mendon</u>	
16		<u>not included in RUTLAND-WINDSOR-1</u>	<u>1</u>
17	<u>RUTLAND-5</u>	<u>City of Rutland and that portion of Rutland Town not</u>	
18		<u>included in RUTLAND-4</u>	<u>4</u>
19	<u>RUTLAND-6</u>	<u>Brandon</u>	<u>1</u>
20	<u>RUTLAND-7</u>	<u>Chittenden and Pittsford</u>	<u>1</u>

1	<u>RUTLAND-</u>		
2	<u>WINDSOR-1</u>	<u>Bridgewater, Killington, Stockbridge, and that portion</u>	
3		<u>of the town of Mendon not included in RUTLAND-4</u>	
4			<u>1</u>
5	<u>RUTLAND-</u>		
6	<u>WINDSOR-2</u>	<u>Ludlow, that portion of the town of Mount Holly not</u>	
7		<u>included in RUTLAND-2, and Shrewsbury</u>	<u>1</u>
8	<u>WASHINGTON-1</u>	<u>Berlin and Northfield</u>	<u>2</u>
9	<u>WASHINGTON-3</u>	<u>Barre City</u>	<u>2</u>
10	<u>WASHINGTON-4</u>	<u>Montpelier</u>	<u>2</u>
11	<u>WASHINGTON-5</u>	<u>East Montpelier and Middlesex</u>	<u>1</u>
12	<u>WASHINGTON-6</u>	<u>Calais, Marshfield, and Plainfield</u>	<u>1</u>
13	<u>WASHINGTON-7</u>	<u>Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield,</u>	
14		<u>and Warren</u>	<u>2</u>
15	<u>WASHINGTON-</u>		
16	<u>CHITTENDEN</u>	<u>Bolton, Buel's Gore, Huntington, and</u>	
17		<u>Waterbury</u>	<u>2</u>
18	<u>WASHINGTON-</u>		
19	<u>ORANGE</u>	<u>Barre Town and Orange</u>	<u>2</u>
20	<u>WINDHAM-1</u>	<u>Guilford and Vernon</u>	<u>1</u>
21	<u>WINDHAM-2</u>	<u>Brattleboro</u>	<u>3</u>

1	<u>WINDHAM-3</u>	<u>Brookline, Rockingham, and Westminster</u>	<u>2</u>
2	<u>WINDHAM-4</u>	<u>Dummerston and Putney</u>	<u>1</u>
3	<u>WINDHAM-5</u>	<u>Newfane, Townshend, and that portion of the town of</u>	
4		<u>Marlboro not in WINDHAM-6</u>	<u>1</u>
5	<u>WINDHAM-6</u>	<u>Halifax, Whitingham, and Wilmington and that portion</u>	
6		<u>of Marlboro not in WINDHAM-5</u>	<u>1</u>
7	<u>WINDHAM-</u>		
8	<u>BENNINGTON</u>	<u>Dover, Somerset, Stratton, Wardsboro, and Winhall</u>	<u>1</u>
9	<u>WINDHAM-</u>		
10	<u>WINDSOR</u>	<u>Andover, Jamaica, Londonderry, and Weston</u>	<u>1</u>
11	<u>WINDSOR-1</u>	<u>Hartland, West Windsor, and Windsor</u>	<u>2</u>
12	<u>WINDSOR-2</u>	<u>Baltimore, Cavendish and Weathersfield</u>	<u>1</u>
13	<u>WINDSOR-3</u>	<u>Springfield</u>	<u>2</u>
14	<u>WINDSOR-4</u>	<u>Barnard, Pomfret, and Hartford</u>	<u>3</u>
15	<u>WINDSOR-5</u>	<u>Plymouth, Reading, and Woodstock</u>	<u>1</u>
16	<u>WINDSOR-</u>		
17	<u>ORANGE-1</u>	<u>Royalton and Tunbridge</u>	<u>1</u>
18	<u>WINDSOR-</u>		
19	<u>ORANGE-2</u>	<u>Norwich, Sharon, Strafford, and Thetford</u>	<u>2</u>
20	<u>WINDSOR-</u>		
21	<u>ADDISON-</u>		

1 RUTLAND Bethel, Granville, Hancock, Pittsfield, and Rochester
2 1

3 WINDSOR-

4 WINDHAM Athens, Grafton, Chester, and Windham 1

5 Sec. 3. DIVISION OF INITIAL DISTRICTS

6 Notwithstanding 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 11 and the provisions set
7 forth in 17 V.S.A. §§ 1906b and 1906c by which boards of civil authority must
8 submit any proposal for the division of initial districts, the boards of civil
9 authority shall submit these proposals to the House Committee on Government
10 Operations on or before February 15, 2022.

11 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on passage.