

H.589

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

(4) The Legislative Apportionment Board submitted its final House proposal to the Clerk of the House on November 30, 2021, significantly later

than the customary submission date of August 15 in prior reapportionment cycles. The Chair of the Legislative Apportionment Board presented to the House Committee on Government Operations on December 8, 2021, regarding the Board's work on the adopted House proposal and the alternate House proposal. The Legislative Apportionment Board did not finalize and approve its written report to the General Assembly regarding its adopted House proposal and alternate House proposal until January 5, 2022.

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

(6) Due to the U.S. Census Bureau's delayed release of the 2020 redistricting dataset, and the resulting delay for the Legislative Apportionment Board's work, the House Committee on Government Operations has not been able to complete its customary reapportionment work prior to the beginning of the legislative session.

(b) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to propose the initial district plan described in this act to cities, towns, and boards of civil authority as a starting point to receive testimony and feedback on the reapportionment of the House of Representatives. The initial district plan described in this act is

not intended to describe any final district lines for the 2022 reapportionment of the House of Representatives. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the House Committee on Government Operations conduct public hearings, take testimony from boards of civil authority, and request feedback on district lines from cities and towns prior to the General Assembly's enactment of final district lines.

Sec. 2. REAPPORTIONMENT; INITIAL HOUSE DISTRICTS PLAN

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the House Committee on Government Operations shall send the multi-member districts reapportionment proposal submitted by the Legislative Apportionment Board to the Clerk of the House on January 6, 2022, and the all single-member districts reapportionment proposal submitted by the Legislative Apportionment Board to the Clerk of the House on November 30, 2021, to cities, towns, and boards of civil authority for purposes of taking testimony and requesting feedback on the reapportionment of the House of Representatives prior to the enactment of final districts.

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

<u>District</u>	<u>Towns and Cities</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
<u>ADDISON-1</u>	<u>Middlebury</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>ADDISON-2</u>	<u>Cornwall, Goshen, Leicester, Ripton, and Salisbury</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>ADDISON-3</u>	<u>Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes, and that portion of the town of Monkton not included in ADDISON-4</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>ADDISON-4</u>	<u>Bristol, Lincoln, Starksboro, and that portion of the town of Monkton not included in ADDISON-3</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>ADDISON-5</u>	<u>Bridport, New Haven, Waltham, and Weybridge</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>ADDISON-</u> <u>RUTLAND</u>	<u>Hubbardton, Orwell, Shoreham, Sudbury, and Whiting</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>BENNINGTON-1</u>	<u>Readsboro, Stamford, and that portion of the town of Pownal not included in BENNINGTON-2-2</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>BENNINGTON-2-1</u>	<u>Woodford, Searsburg, and that portion of Bennington not included in BENNINGTON-2-2</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>BENNINGTON-2-2</u>	<u>That portion of the town of Pownal not included in BENNINGTON-1 and that portion of the town of Bennington not included in BENNINGTON-2-1</u>	<u>2</u>

<u>BENNINGTON-3</u>	<u>Glastenbury, Shaftsbury, and that portion of the town of</u>	
	<u>Sunderland not included in BENNINGTON-4</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>BENNINGTON-4</u>	<u>Arlington, Manchester, Sandgate, and that portion of the</u>	
	<u>town of Sunderland not included in BENNINGTON-3</u>	
		<u>2</u>
<u>BENNINGTON-</u>		
<u>RUTLAND</u>	<u>Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Mount Tabor, and Peru</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>CALEDONIA-1</u>	<u>Barnet, Ryegate, and Waterford</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>CALEDONIA-2</u>	<u>Hardwick, Stannard, and Walden</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>CALEDONIA-3</u>	<u>Lyndon, Newark, Sheffield, Sutton, and Wheelock</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>CALEDONIA-</u>	<u>Concord, Kirby, and St. Johnsbury</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>ESSEX</u>		
<u>CALEDONIA-</u>		
<u>WASHINGTON</u>	<u>Cabot, Danville, and Peacham</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>CHITTENDEN-1</u>	<u>Richmond</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>CHITTENDEN-2</u>	<u>That portion of Williston not included in</u>	
	<u>CHITTENDEN-7</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>CHITTENDEN-3</u>	<u>Jericho and Underhill</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>CHITTENDEN-4-1</u>	<u>Charlotte and that portion of Hinesburg not</u>	
	<u>not included in CHITTENDEN-4-2</u>	<u>1</u>

<u>CHITTENDEN-4-2</u>	<u>That portion of the town of Hinesburg</u> <u>not included in CHITTENDEN-4-1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>CHITTENDEN-5</u>	<u>St. George and Shelburne</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>CHITTENDEN-6</u>	<u>Burlington and Winooski</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>CHITTENDEN-7</u>	<u>South Burlington and that portion of the town of</u> <u>Williston not included in CHITTENDEN-2</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>CHITTENDEN-8</u>	<u>Essex, Westford, that portion of Colchester not included</u> <u>in CHITTENDEN-9, and that portion of the town of</u> <u>Milton not included in CHITTENDEN-9 or</u> <u>CHITTENDEN-10</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>CHITTENDEN-9</u>	<u>That portion of Colchester not included in</u> <u>CHITTENDEN-8 and that portion of Milton not</u> <u>included in CHITTENDEN-8 or CHITTENDEN-10</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>CHITTENDEN-10</u>	<u>That portion of the town of Milton not included in</u> <u>CHITTENDEN-9</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>ESSEX-</u>		
<u>CALEDONIA</u>	<u>Bloomfield, Brunswick, Burke, East Haven,</u> <u>Ferdinand, Granby, Guildhall, Lunenburg,</u> <u>Maidstone, and Victory</u>	<u>1</u>

ESSEX-

CALEDONIA-

ORLEANS

Averill, Avery's Gore, Brighton, Canaan, Charleston,
Holland, Lemington, Lewis, Morgan, Norton, Warner's
Grant, and Warren Gore 1

FRANKLIN-1

Georgia and that portion of the town of Fairfax not
included in FRANKLIN-6 2

FRANKLIN-3

St. Albans City and that portion of St. Albans
Town not included in FRANKLIN-4 3

FRANKLIN-4

Franklin; Highgate; Sheldon; St. Albans Town, except
that portion of the town included in FRANKLIN-3; and
that portion of the town of Swanton not included in
GRAND-ISLE-FRANKLIN 2

FRANKLIN-5

Bakersfield, Berkshire, Enosburgh, Montgomery, and
Richford 2

FRANKLIN-6

Fairfield, Fletcher, and that portion of the town of
Fairfax not included in FRANKLIN-1 1

GRAND-ISLE

Grand Isle, South Hero, and that portion of the town
of North Hero not included in GRAND-ISLE-
FRANKLIN 1

GRAND-ISLE-

FRANKLIN Alburgh, Isle La Motte, that portion of the town of
North Hero not included in GRAND-ISLE, and that
portion of the town of Swanton not included in

FRANKLIN-4 2

LAMOILLE-1 That portion of the town of Stowe not included in

LAMOILLE-WASHINGTON 1

LAMOILLE-2 Belvedere, Hyde Park, Johnson, and Wolcott 2

LAMOILLE-3 Cambridge and Waterville 1

LAMOILLE-

WASHINGTON Elmore, Morristown, Woodbury, Worcester, and that
portion of the town of Stowe not included in

LAMOILLE-1 2

ORANGE-1 Chelsea, Corinth, Vershire, Washington, and

Williamstown 2

ORANGE-2 Bradford, Fairlee, and West Fairlee 1

ORANGE-

CALEDONIA Groton, Newbury, and Topsham 1

ORANGE-

WASHINGTON Braintree, Brookfield, Randolph, and Roxbury 2

ORLEANS-1-1 Derby 1

<u>ORLEANS-1-2</u>	<u>Barton, Brownington, and Westmore</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>ORLEANS-2-1</u>	<u>Coventry, Irasburg, Town of Newport, and that portion of the town of Troy not included in ORLEANS-</u>	
	<u>LAMOILLE</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>ORLEANS-2-2</u>	<u>City of Newport</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>ORLEANS-3</u>	<u>Albany, Craftsbury, Glover, and Greensboro</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>ORLEANS-</u>		
<u>LAMOILLE</u>	<u>Eden, Jay, Lowell, Westfield, and that portion of the town of Troy not included in ORLEANS-2-1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>RUTLAND-</u>		
<u>BENNINGTON</u>	<u>Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rupert, Tinmouth, and that portion of the town of Wells not in RUTLAND-1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>RUTLAND-1</u>	<u>Ira, Poultney, and that portion of the town of Wells not included in RUTLAND-BENNINGTON</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>RUTLAND-2</u>	<u>Clarendon, Proctor, Wallingford, West Rutland, and that portion of the town of Mount Holly not included in</u>	
	<u>RUTLAND-WINDSOR-2</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>RUTLAND-3-1</u>	<u>Castleton</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>RUTLAND-3-2</u>	<u>Benson, Fair Haven, and West Haven</u>	<u>1</u>

<u>RUTLAND-4</u>	<u>That portion of Rutland Town not included in</u> <u>RUTLAND-5 and that portion of the town of Mendon</u> <u>not included in RUTLAND-WINDSOR-1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>RUTLAND-5</u>	<u>City of Rutland and that portion of Rutland Town not</u> <u>included in RUTLAND-4</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>RUTLAND-6</u>	<u>Brandon</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>RUTLAND-7</u>	<u>Chittenden and Pittsford</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>RUTLAND-</u> <u>WINDSOR-1</u>	<u>Bridgewater, Killington, Stockbridge, and that portion</u> <u>of the town of Mendon not included in RUTLAND-4</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>RUTLAND-</u> <u>WINDSOR-2</u>	<u>Ludlow, that portion of the town of Mount Holly not</u> <u>included in RUTLAND-2, and Shrewsbury</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>WASHINGTON-1</u>	<u>Berlin and Northfield</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>WASHINGTON-3</u>	<u>Barre City</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>WASHINGTON-4</u>	<u>Montpelier</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>WASHINGTON-5</u>	<u>East Montpelier and Middlesex</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>WASHINGTON-6</u>	<u>Calais, Marshfield, and Plainfield</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>WASHINGTON-7</u>	<u>Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield,</u> <u>and Warren</u>	<u>2</u>

<u>WINDSOR-5</u>	<u>Plymouth, Reading, and Woodstock</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>WINDSOR-</u>		
<u>ORANGE-1</u>	<u>Royalton and Tunbridge</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>WINDSOR-</u>		
<u>ORANGE-2</u>	<u>Norwich, Sharon, Strafford, and Thetford</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>WINDSOR-</u>		
<u>ADDISON-</u>		
<u>RUTLAND</u>	<u>Bethel, Granville, Hancock, Pittsfield, and Rochester</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>WINDSOR-</u>		
<u>WINDHAM</u>	<u>Athens, Grafton, Chester, and Windham</u>	<u>1</u>

Sec. 3. DIVISION OF INITIAL DISTRICTS

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

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.