

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 598

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO REDISTRICTING PLANS; AMENDING SECTION 72-1506, IDAHO CODE, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE EVERY PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE  
3 DISTRICT SHALL SUBSTANTIVELY TOUCH THE BOUNDARY OF AT LEAST TWO OTHER  
4 DISTRICTS.  
5

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 SECTION 1. That Section 72-1506, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 72-1506. CRITERIA GOVERNING PLANS. Congressional and legislative  
10 redistricting plans considered by the commission, and plans adopted by the  
11 commission, shall be governed by the following criteria:

12 (1) The total state population as reported by the U.S. census bureau,  
13 and the population of subunits determined therefrom, shall be exclusive per-  
14 missible data.

15 (2) To the maximum extent possible, districts shall preserve tradi-  
16 tional neighborhoods and local communities of interest.

17 (3) Districts shall be substantially equal in population and should  
18 seek to comply with all applicable federal standards and statutes.

19 (4) To the maximum extent possible, the plan should avoid drawing dis-  
20 tricts that are oddly shaped.

21 (5) Division of counties shall be avoided whenever possible. In the  
22 event that a county must be divided, the number of such divisions, per  
23 county, should be kept to a minimum.

24 (6) To the extent that counties must be divided to create districts,  
25 such districts shall be composed of contiguous counties.

26 (7) District boundaries shall retain the local voting precinct bound-  
27 ary lines to the extent those lines comply with the provisions of section  
28 34-306, Idaho Code. When the commission determines, by an affirmative vote  
29 of at least five (5) members recorded in its minutes, that it cannot complete  
30 its duties for a legislative district by fully complying with the provisions  
31 of this subsection, this subsection shall not apply to the commission or leg-  
32 islative redistricting plan it shall adopt.

33 (8) Counties shall not be divided to protect a particular political  
34 party or a particular incumbent.

35 (9) When a legislative district contains more than one (1) county or a  
36 portion of a county, the counties or portion of a county in the district shall  
37 be directly connected by roads and highways which are designated as part of  
38 the interstate highway system, the United States highway system or the state  
39 highway system. When the commission determines, by an affirmative vote of at  
40 least five (5) members recorded in its minutes, that it cannot complete its  
41 duties for a legislative district by fully complying with the provisions of

1 this subsection, this subsection shall not apply to the commission or leg-  
2 islative redistricting plan it shall adopt.

3 (10) To the maximum extent possible, every proposed legislative dis-  
4 trict shall substantively touch the boundary of at least two (2) other  
5 districts.