

Districts Plus



MODEL STATUTORY LANGUAGE

An Amendment to Make the State Legislature More Representative and Accountable

Section 1: REPRESENTATIVES, NUMBER, DISTRICTS

The House of Representatives shall consist of a total of 100 members elected for two-year terms from 80 single member districts and 20 accountability districts. The state shall be divided into the 20 accountability districts apportioned on a basis of population. Each accountability district shall be subdivided into four single member districts apportioned on a basis of population. All districts shall consist of compact and convenient territory contiguous by land and comply with federal laws, including the Voting Rights Act.

Section 2: REPRESENTATIVES, NOMINATION AND ELECTION

Each political party recognized by law shall be entitled to nominate no more than one candidate per single member district and no more than one candidate per accountability district. The legislature shall enact laws to regulate the time, place and manner of all such nominations.

One member shall be elected from each single member district in a manner provided by law. One member shall be elected from each accountability district in a manner provided by this article.

Section 3: ACCOUNTABILITY SEATS

Each elector shall be entitled to vote for exactly one candidate in such elector's accountability district.

Following the certifications of election in the single member districts, the secretary of state shall announce the total votes cast for all nominees from each political party in all accountability districts. The secretary of state shall then calculate the number accountability seats earned by each political party, as provided in this article.

Any political party whose nominees in accountability districts collectively won less than four percent of the total accountability district votes shall be disregarded. For all other political parties, the secretary of state shall calculate the proportion of all 100 seats due to that party, using only the total votes cast for all accountability district nominees from those political parties, on the basis of a proportional representation formula as provided by law.

(Continued on page 2)

Districts Plus



MODEL STATUTORY LANGUAGE

(Continued from page 1)

After calculating the total seats due to each political party, the secretary of state shall subtract from these totals the number of seats already won by nominees from each political party. Whichever political party has the largest difference between seats due and seats already won shall be awarded one accountability seat, and one candidate nominated by that party shall be elected in one accountability district as provided in this article. That process shall then be repeated until one member has been elected from each of the 20 accountability seats.

When a political party wins an accountability seat, the candidate elected shall be the accountability district nominee who has received the highest proportion of votes in any accountability district from which no candidate has already been elected.

Section 3: RECALL *(option 1, for states with party registration)*

Members elected to accountability seats may be recalled in a manner provided by law, except that the member may only be replaced by a candidate nominated by the member's same political party in an election in which only those electors who could participate in a nominating election for that political party may participate.

Section 3: RECALL *(option 2, for states without party registration and whose recall laws include a "yes/no" vote for recall)*

Members elected to accountability seats may be recalled in a manner provided by law, except that for the member to be recalled, a vote to recall the member must have a smaller proportion of votes opposed than the proportion of the vote which the member received in the general election at which the member was elected.

Section 3: RECALL *(option 3, for all others)*

Members elected to accountability seats shall not be subject to recall. Nothing in this article shall be construed as limiting the right of recall in any of the 80 single seat districts.

(Continued on page 3)

Districts Plus



MODEL STATUTORY LANGUAGE

(Continued from page 2)

Section 4: INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

Nothing in this article shall be construed as prohibiting candidates from seeking election without political party affiliation in any single member district.

Section 5: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall go into effect the _____ day of _____ 20____.