

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 233

Introduced by Krist, 10.

Read first time January 11, 2011

Committee: Executive Board

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Legislature; to amend section 32-508,
2 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to state intent; to
3 change the number of members of the Legislature; to
4 repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency.
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds that:

2 (1) Redistricting is one of the major issues facing the
3 Legislature in 2011;

4 (2) Rule 3, Section 6, of the Rules of the Nebraska
5 Unicameral Legislature establishes a Redistricting Committee to
6 oversee the redistricting process;

7 (3) Members of the Redistricting Committee will be
8 appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council in
9 January 2011;

10 (4) Article III, sections 5 to 8, of the Constitution of
11 Nebraska prescribe the parameters for redrawing the state's
12 legislative districts;

13 (5) Article III, section 6, of the Constitution of
14 Nebraska specifically provides that the Legislature shall consist of
15 not more than fifty nor less than thirty members;

16 (6) Nebraska is currently divided into forty-nine
17 legislative districts;

18 (7) Many citizens are calling for smaller government;

19 (8) This is a unique point in time for examining the
20 composition of the Legislature since term limits imposed on members
21 of the body will result in nine current senators being unable to run
22 for reelection in 2013; and

23 (9) Nebraska's changing state population and the dismal
24 state budget picture provide an ideal opportunity for the
25 Redistricting Committee and the Legislature to study the feasibility

1 and potential impact of reducing the number of state legislative
2 districts.

3 Sec. 2. Section 32-508, Reissue Revised Statutes of
4 Nebraska, is amended to read:

5 32-508 ~~The~~ (1) Until the Legislature convenes in January
6 2013, the State of Nebraska is divided into forty-nine legislative
7 districts as provided and described in sections 50-1101 to 50-1152.
8 Beginning with the Legislature which convenes in January 2013, the
9 State of Nebraska is divided into forty-five legislative districts as
10 provided in subsection (2) of this section. The members of the
11 Legislature from the even-numbered districts shall be elected for
12 terms of four years at the statewide general election in 1994 and
13 each four years thereafter except as otherwise provided in subsection
14 (2) of this section. The members of the Legislature from the odd-
15 numbered districts shall be elected for terms of four years at the
16 statewide general election in 1996 and each four years thereafter
17 except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section.
18 Candidates for the Legislature shall meet the qualifications found in
19 Article III, sections 8 and 9, of the Constitution of Nebraska. The
20 members of the Legislature shall be elected on the nonpartisan
21 ballot.

22 (2) The Legislature shall provide for forty-five
23 legislative districts to become operative beginning with the One
24 Hundred Third Legislature, First Session, which is scheduled to
25 convene in January 2013, except that members of the Legislature from

1 seventeen newly established odd-numbered legislative districts
2 designated in the legislation creating the districts shall be
3 nominated at the primary election in 2012 and elected at the general
4 election in November 2012 for the term commencing in January 2013.
5 The members of the Legislature elected or appointed to even-numbered
6 legislative districts prior to the commencement of the One Hundred
7 Fourth Legislature, First Session, shall represent the newly
8 established even-numbered legislative districts for the balance of
9 their terms, with each member representing the same numbered district
10 to which he or she was elected or appointed, except that the member
11 serving the forty-sixth legislative district and the member serving
12 the forty-eighth legislative district shall serve the newly
13 established odd-numbered legislative district designated in the
14 legislation creating the districts for the remainder of his or her
15 term. The members of the Legislature from such newly established odd-
16 numbered legislative districts shall be nominated at the primary
17 election in 2014 and elected at the general election in November 2014
18 for two-year terms, and beginning in 2016, the members of the
19 Legislature from all odd-numbered legislative districts shall be
20 elected for terms of four years at the general election and every
21 four years thereafter.

22 Sec. 3. Original section 32-508, Reissue Revised Statutes
23 of Nebraska, is repealed.

24 Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect
25 when passed and approved according to law.