

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

SB255

Bill as Introduced

SB 255 - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-3027

11/10

SENATE BILL **255**

AN ACT establishing redistricting criteria.

SPONSORS: Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Cavanaugh, Dist 16; Sen. Sherman, Dist 24; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Kahn, Dist 10

COMMITTEE: Election Law and Municipal Affairs

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes redistricting criteria.

.....

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT establishing redistricting criteria.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Redistricting. Amend RSA 14 by inserting after section 14-c the following new
2 section:

3 14:14-d Redistricting; Prohibition on Partisan Gerrymandering. Any districts created by the
4 New Hampshire senate, house of representatives, or any subcommittee thereof, shall comply with
5 the following criteria:

6 I. Districts shall comply with the United States constitution and all applicable federal laws,
7 and shall be drawn on the basis of total population.

8 II. Districts shall comply with the New Hampshire constitution and all applicable state
9 laws.

10 III. Districts shall form single boundaries and shall not be bisected or otherwise divided by
11 other districts, and shall respect the geographic integrity of political boundaries to the extent
12 practicable without violating the requirements of state law or any preceding subdivisions.

13 IV. Districts shall be drawn in compact shapes and shall avoid jagged edges and extensions.

14 V. Districts shall consider the integrity of communities of interest to the extent practicable.
15 For purposes of this paragraph a community of interest is defined as an area with recognized
16 similarities of interests, including but not limited to racial, ethnic, economic, social, cultural,
17 geographic, or historic identities. Communities of interest shall not include common relationships
18 with political parties or political candidates.

19 VI. The plan as a whole shall not have the intent or the effect of unduly favoring or
20 disfavoring any political party, incumbent, or candidate for office.

21 VII. Districts shall not have the intent or the effect of unduly favoring or disfavoring any
22 racial or language group.

23 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Committee Minutes

AMENDED
SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen James Gray, Chair
Sen Regina Birdsell, Vice Chair
Sen Ruth Ward, Member
Sen Donna Soucy, Member
Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: January 27, 2022

HEARINGS

Monday

01/31/2022

Election Law and Municipal Affairs	State House Reps Hall	1:00 p.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)
1:00 p.m. CACR 36	residency for the purpose of voting. Providing that only residents of the state may vote in elections.	
1:20 p.m. SB 255	establishing redistricting criteria.	
1:45 p.m. HB 50	apportioning state representative districts. Amendment #0339s to HB 50 will be introduced and can be accessed via the General Court Web Site	
1:45 p.m. HB 52	apportioning congressional districts.	

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:

CACR 36

Sen. Birdsell
Sen. Hennessey
Sen. French
Rep. Lynn

Sen. Avard
Sen. Ward
Sen. Gannon

Sen. Bradley
Sen. Carson
Sen. Ricciardi

Sen. Gray
Sen. Daniels
Sen. Giuda

SB 255

Sen. Perkins Kwoka
Sen. Whitley
Sen. D'Allesandro

Sen. Watters
Sen. Cavanaugh
Sen. Kahn

Sen. Rosenwald
Sen. Sherman

Sen. Soucy
Sen. Prentiss

HB 50

Rep. B. Griffin

HB 52

Rep. B. Griffin

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

James P. Gray
Chairman

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
Tricia Melillo 271-3077

SB 255, establishing redistricting criteria.

Hearing Date: January 31, 2022

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Birdsell, Ward, Soucy and Perkins Kwoka

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill establishes redistricting criteria.

Sponsors:

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Watters

Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. Soucy

Sen. Whitley

Sen. Cavanaugh

Sen. Sherman

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. D'Allesandro

Sen. Kahn

Who supports the bill: 131 people signed up in support of the bill. The full sign in sheet is available upon request.

Who opposes the bill: 9 people signed up in opposition of the bill. The full sign in sheet is available upon request.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka

- SB 255 seeks to establish redistricting criteria per the New Hampshire Constitution.
- The legislature is required to redraw its legislative districts every 10 years following the release of the census.
- The aim in redrawing the districts is to ensure that our political representation is reflective of our population.
- At the core redistricting is about fair and equal representation.
- In some states this redistricting process is fair, transparent and independent.
- Districts are drawn with public input making sure the population and party affiliation is as equal as possible.
- Over the years the redistricting process in New Hampshire has been dramatically different.
- Current legislation allows the redistricting process to happen behind closed doors and without public input.
- This can lead to gerrymandered districts aimed at keeping one political party in power for a decade.
- SB 255 aims to protect New Hampshire voters by creating a specific prohibition on partisan gerrymandering.
- Just last month we saw the Ohio Supreme Court strike down a clearly politically gerrymandered map and that is the aim of this legislation.
- By putting this prohibition in statute, New Hampshire makes it clear that under no circumstances will political or other gerrymandering be tolerated.
- Never in recent history has our country suffered from more deep partisan division.
- Last year began with an insurrection at our U.S. Capitol where hatred and violence took the place of civil discourse and peaceful protests.
- Of all the ugliness laid bare that day, one thing was made dramatically clear, the divide caused by gerrymandering where extreme political candidates thrive must end.

- The best ideas are arrived at through robust debate where citizens representing different ideologies are given the opportunity to engage and contribute to our democracy.
- By creating guidelines, they guarantee that future legislators will draw a fair and impartial map based on people and not politics, based on representation and not partisan power.
- In this way they can discuss political ideas with each other at the door, they can call each other on the phone, they can exchange ideas, have debates and see the other side.
- Without fair maps they lose this
- She is proud of our political tradition but the more tortured the maps get the more they distort the will of the voters, the less this state and the policies that it passes reflect its citizens.
- Passage of SB 255 will ensure that going forward we will put politics aside and do the honest work that our residents elected us to do

Representative Timothy Horrigan

- This bill should be totally unnecessary because it's simple common sense that they should draw districts that are as simple and compact as possible.
- He believes after looking at some of the plans from 10 years ago and especially the plans they have this time, it is necessary.
- Going forward with this law, hopefully, in 2032, they will draw plans that are less absurd than the current ones that have been proposed.

Theresa Kenneth

- Flipping over 300,000 people to a different district the geography of the proposed map alone is incredibly upsetting.
- In central or northern New Hampshire historically they have had two representatives who have a vested interest in their very diverse needs.
- The map put forward by the republicans only has one and that one person is supposed to attend to all of the north country, all of the central New Hampshire and the Southwestern part of our state.
- Additionally upsetting to him is that the proposed republican map makes the districts uncompetitive.
- Gerrymandering ensures safe seats which result in politicians not being very attentive to their constituents.
- A politician can get elected once and stay in office for a lifetime without ever earning that seat again.
- Competitive districts result in elected officials being very responsive to their constituents.
- Uncompetitive gerrymandered seats only worsen the political divide that already exists.
- A strong trustworthy democracy depends on voters electing their representatives not the other way around.
- He is counting on the elected officials to end map manipulation.
- These blatantly gerrymandered seats in the republican map seek to only protect a political party's hold on power.
- That falls far from that standard New Hampshire voters need and deserve.

Dorothea Sybold

- She served as the first female town moderator in the town of Conway.
- She oversaw many local and national elections in that position.
- She has concern and alarm over the redistricting plan proposed by the republican majority of the state house.
- She does not pretend to be a redistricting expert but can see that this plan upends over 140 years of bipartisan agreement on the formation of New Hampshire districts.
- Most alarming is the prospect of the north country, which already receives scant attention from those in power, further losing representation which means they lose their voice.

- Under this plan there's no need for politicians to speak to all of the constituents in order to be elected.
- They deserve redistricting that reflects the shared concerns of the communities that make up the district.
- Creating blatantly partisan districts further erodes the will of the people and allows for more and more extremists from both parties representing them.
- Representatives no longer care about our concerns for clean water, property tax relief, affordable housing, or any of the real problems that are facing our state.

Brian Beihl – Open Democracy Action

- There were some improvements for this cycle of redistricting in New Hampshire
- They had more opportunity to give testimony which the voters greatly appreciated.
- They had the opportunity to review the documents posted to the committee thanks to the Special Committee's website and upload portal which has been very helpful.
- One area where both the House and Senate Special Committees and this committee have fallen woefully short is the transparency of the redistricting criteria.
- There hasn't been any transparency of the criteria for drawing maps.
- The Map-a-Thon group consulted the New Hampshire Constitution, the New Hampshire statutes, the U.S. Constitution, the Brennan Center's extensive resources from the National Conference of State Legislatures, New Hampshire Supreme Court cases and the U.S. Supreme Court cases.
- They were astonished that New Hampshire uses such a haphazard approach to something as important as redistricting.
- There should be a published standard operating procedure which informs the committee and the public of what information will be used in the mapping process, where it was applied and why.
- Open Democracy Action supports this bill but thinks it should be amended to include the executive council in addition to the NH Senate and the NH House.
- Given the gerrymandered 2010 executive council maps the provisions of SB 255 should apply to the executive council as well as communities of interest.
- They strongly recommend that regional school districts or regional high school areas must be included and perhaps could be added to the paragraph defining communities of interest in the bill.
- They also strongly support the provision that states, "the plan as a whole shall not have the intent or the effect of unduly favoring or disfavoring any political party, incumbent or capital candidate for office."
- He believes given the partisan manipulation of redistricting the last two redistricting cycles, such a provision would serve the best interest of the voters and would get the representation that the voters deserve not the representation chosen for them
- Passing SB 255 and putting NH's redistricting criteria into statute begins the process of true transparency for the public and fair, competitive and sensible voting districts.

David Andrews

- Criteria gives them somewhere to start when putting a map together.
- More importantly, it gives them something to judge the maps against.
- When they see multiple different maps they are able to decide which map is best simply by looking at the criteria.
- For example, if high school SAUs are important, they can see how many of those are broken up.
- There are tons and tons of different criteria that they could lay out but laying it out is extremely important.
- He believes this should have been done months ago or a year plus ago.
- If they can establish criteria for drawing maps in NH it will be extremely important in order to be able to judge those maps that come out of committees.

Linda Olson Bundy

- She has observed the need for guidelines that go beyond the basic numerical parameters presently in place.
- Some maps have been introduced simply as meeting the federal and state constitutional requirements with little else for their bases.
- Other maps have been presented with more explanation of the reasoning and thinking behind the drawing of district lines.
- SB 255 establishes basic criteria for redistricting that follow best practices that are common to respected open source redistricting applications.
- Compact shape and contiguous boundaries are sensible standards to have.
- Communities of interest are connections among voters that define the character of districts and the issues that matter to them.
- The language in the bill clearly holds the legislators drawing the maps accountable to specific ethical standards.
- Having clear criteria will increase the understanding the voters have for this process and make the legislators involved be more open and accountable about the maps they propose.

Tom Laperriere

- When he looked at the proposed maps he was horrified that gerrymandering was happening here in NH.
- He likes the status quo and thinks the status quo is beautiful as it splits the state right in half.
- He does not like the idea of moving whole big blocks of people who are living in like-minded communities.
- People tend to live around people they agree with rather than people they disagree with.
- Taking all of these people from one area and putting them in a district that's traditionally been with the other side of the state makes absolutely no sense to him.
- The districts that we have now make sense.
- He believes that SB 255 makes sense but he worries whether it is enforceable or not.

Patrick Eggleston

- He is 80 years old, old enough to remember republicans who were reasonably fair and honest.
- George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush and Dwight Eisenhower, but to him the NH Republicans do not fit that mold.
- He believes they are very deeply into gerrymandering which sadly is not illegal.
- In a fair system there would be a committee of equal numbers of democrats and republicans doing this redistricting with one math person who knows how to test for gerrymandering.
- The democrats and republicans in equal numbers should work out a redistricting plan in a way that is fair to both sides not just one.
- The math expert should test the plan to see if it is gerrymandered and if it is, the process should start over and continue until they can get a plan that is not gerrymandered.
- The three college towns of Plymouth, Hanover and New London were obviously gerrymandered into one district.
- Whatever redistricting plan emerges will dictate the outcome of elections for the next 10 years.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition:

Dan McGuire

- He assists in training freshman legislators on how to be effective.
- One of the things they suggest to them is that when considering any piece of legislation there are three questions they should ask themselves.
- They should ask if it is necessary or needed, is it already on the books and third, is it enforceable.
- He believes that is where SB 255 falls flat.
- This bill is entirely unenforceable and it will have no effect on the redistricting process whether it passes or fails.
- The redistricting process is a legislative process and it is entirely ineffective to try to control the legislature by legislation.
- It is not possible to create a law that controls future legislators.
- The only way to control legislators and their actions is with the rules that each body passes but those only have effect on that body for that term or by constitutional amendment because the constitution overrides law.
- Simply put this law would have no effect.

TJM

Date Hearing Report completed: February 7, 2022

Speakers

SPEAKING

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: 1/31/22

Time: 1:20 p.m.

~~SB 255~~ establishing redistricting criteria

	Name	Representing
✓ 1.	Rep Timothy Hornum	Stretford
✓ 2.	Theresa Kennell	
✓ 3.	Dorthea Subold	VI
4.	RAE CHADWICK	GRAND STATE TAXPAYERS
5.	BRIT Brien	Self / Pine Juice Public Policy
✓ 6.	Brian Behl	Open Democracy Action
✓ 7.	Dan McGuire	Self (Epsom)
✓ 8.	Linda Olson Bundy	Myself
X 9.	Richard Senkerson	Myself
X 10.	Mary Freitas	Myself
✓ 11.	Tom Laperriere	Myself
✓ 12.	David Andrews	Self
13.	Megan McLaughlin	Myself
14.		
15.		

SPEAKING

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: 1/31/22 Time: 1:20 p.m.

~~SB 255~~ establishing redistricting criteria

Name	Representing
✓ 1. Patel M Gylkster	self
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
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9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	

Senate Remote Testify

Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill ~~SB255~~ on 2022

~~Support: 128~~ ~~Oppose: 6~~

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>
Magruder, Joe	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Zoeller, Charles	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Verschueren, James	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Soucy, Donna	An Elected Official	SD 18	Support
Rosenwald, Cindy	An Elected Official	SD 13	Support
Huberman, Anne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Kornhauser, Naomi	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Richman, Susan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Kornhauser, Eve	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Dargie, Paul	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
Lobdell, Sara	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Westlake, Jane	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Brady, Eileen	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Couture, Matthew	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Lightfoot, Jean	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Naylor, Claire	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Robbins, Annie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Carter, Susan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Andrews, David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Andrews, Gloria	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Andrews, Jeffrey	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Wallace, John	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Mattern, Grace	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Florio, Melissa	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Raven, Mary	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Meyer, Abigail	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Dickler, Jeffrey	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
House, Don	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Garland, Ann	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Hough, Richard	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Widger, Barbara	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Beeson, Roberta	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Cannon, Page	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
King, Marcia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Podlipny, Ann	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Bibace, Sandra	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
jonas, david	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
McLeod, Kenna	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Roman, Valerie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
McIntire, Ronnie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Raspiller, Cindy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Brown, Howard	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Learner, Marilyn	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Learner, Larry	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Donahue, Nancy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Boyle, Gerald	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Mabbs-Zeno, Carl	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support

SHANNON, HOMER	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Gage, John	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Anderson, Gloria	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Roman, Anthony	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Pietroviato, Janet	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Baker, Deb	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Cross, John	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Weiner, Stephanie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Mcduffee, Barbara	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Hansen, Lorraine	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Smith, Jennifer	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
bory, lee	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
BRUNO, BONNIE	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
SHEETS, PEGGY	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Haring-Smith, Robert	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
O'Rorke, Terri	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Waterman, Raymod	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Waterman, Patricia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Erikson, David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Moser, Christine	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Kalenderian, Marie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Kelley, Mary	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Kalenderian, David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Rhoades, Chuck	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Ellermann, Maureen	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Diamond, Maureen	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Varney, Michele	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
McLaughlin, Barbara	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Heath, Ruth M	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Ropp, Elizabeth	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Devane, Melissa	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Cotton, Bev	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Jonas, Susannah	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Jaconsky-Hamersma, Edith	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
Nardino, Marie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Sweeney-Blaise, Robyn	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Mitchell, Robert	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
DiCicco, Harriet	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Allen, Davis	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Campbell, Karolyn	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Robertson Souter, Catherine	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Bushueff, Catherine	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
thompson, julia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Benham, Linda	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
McCormick, Kristen	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Moore, Susan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Dinzeo, David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Robinson, Ellis	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Smith, Jeffrey	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
emmett, janet	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Pitrone, Ann	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Vincent, Laura	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Armstrong, Jane	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Schult, Barbara	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Anastasia, Patricia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Dattner-Levy, Amy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support

Maldonado, Ursula	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Heller, David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Collins, Erin	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Pietrovito, James	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Stinson, Benjamin	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Bundy, Linda Olson	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Yardley, Janet	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Secord, William	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Perry, Bob	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Mackey, Phyllis	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Boyle, Mary	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Campbell, Karen	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Kinney, Rev. Dr. Gail	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Thorn, Andrea	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
gilbert, lisa	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Saum, Judith	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Cawley, David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Thelen, Brett	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Perry, Darryl	A Lobbyist	New Hampshire Libertas	Support
Anderson, Maud	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Raff, Alan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Coon, Kate	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Fraysse, Michael	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Whitney, Patricia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Rothenberg, Yulia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Chadwick, Ray	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
BosquetFleurival, Darnelle	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Thornton, Stephanie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
McGowan, Tondy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Castellano, Rocco	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Tanner, Linda	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose
Maldonado, Luis	A Member of the Public	Myself	Neutral

Testimony

Tricia Melillo

From: Patti Anastasia <patti.anastasia@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 6:15 PM
To: James Gray; Regina Birdsell; Ruth Ward; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Tricia Melillo
Cc: Sharon Carson
Subject: SB 255 establishing redistricting criteria

James.Gray@leg.state.nh.us; Regina.Birdsell@leg.state.nh.us; Ruth.Ward@leg.state.nh.us;
Donna.Soucy@leg.state.nh.us; Rebecca.PerkinsKwoka@leg.state.nh.us; tricia.melillo@leg.state.nh.us

From: Patricia Anastasia, 50 Holstein Ave, Londonderry, NH

To: Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Re: SB 255 establishing redistricting criteria

Dear Committee members,

I support SB 255.

SB 255 establishes rules that must be followed during redistricting. These rules are intended to create straightforward districts that are free of gerrymandering that favors any political party. This is good for NH. Too often, there is cause to believe that personal and partisan interests dominate redistricting, at the expense of the public interest. Under the current system of redistricting, complicated new districts are created with a focus on preserving political power. What we need is simple districts based on population and the integrity of communities of interest. Districts should not have the intent or effect of favoring or disfavoring political parties or politicians.

I favor an amendment to SB 255. As written, it does not apply to Executive Council districts. I urge the Senate to include the Executive Council in this bill.

Ultimately, I would like to see NH embrace a redistricting process that uses an independent redistricting commission rather than the current process where incumbent legislators control the process.

SB 255 bill is a step towards a redistricting process that favors the people of NH, rather than the political parties and politicians.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,
Patricia Anastasia

Dear Senator Gray and Members of the Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee,

As I've learned about redistricting and followed it through the current process, I've observed the need for guidelines that go beyond the basic numerical parameters presently in place. Some maps have been introduced simply as meeting the federal and state constitutional requirements with little else for their basis. Other maps have been presented with more explanation of the reasoning and thinking behind the drawing of district lines.

SB 255 establishes basic criteria for redistricting that follow best practices that are common to respected open source redistricting applications such as DistrictR, District Builder, and Dave's Redistricting App. Compact shape and contiguous boundaries are sensible standards to have. Communities of interest are connections among voters that define the character of districts and grow the issues that matter to them. Clearly stating that districts shall not unduly favor or disfavor any political party, incumbent, candidate, or any racial or language group holds the legislators drawing the maps accountable to specific ethical standards. Having clear criteria will increase the understanding the voters have for this process, and make the legislators involved be more open and accountable about the maps they propose.

Now, while we are still in this process of redistricting, it is the time to apply what we are learning and legislate criteria that will improve the process and the resulting maps after the census of 2030.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully,

Linda Olson Bundy

Antrim

Tricia Melillo

From: Ruth Heath <ruthmheath@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 10:00 AM
To: James Gray; Regina Birdsell; Ruth Ward; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Tricia Melillo
Subject: SB255 Please support

I write in support of SB255. I live in a district with a large floterial which is very difficult. Also for our other 2 seats, Canterbury is combined with Loudon, which is geographically near, a good idea however we share a school district with Belmont but do not share our state representation. I hope that in the future redistricting will take into account communities of interest.

Please vote for SB255.

Ruth Heat

Canterbury NH

Dear Senator Gray and Members of the Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee,

As I've learned about redistricting and followed it through the current process, I've observed the need for guidelines that go beyond the basic numerical parameters presently in place. Some maps have been introduced simply as meeting the federal and state constitutional requirements with little else for their basis. Other maps have been presented with more explanation of the reasoning and thinking behind the drawing of district lines.

SB 255 establishes basic criteria for redistricting that follow best practices that are common to respected open source redistricting applications such as DistrictR, District Builder, and Dave's Redistricting App. Compact shape and contiguous boundaries are sensible standards to have. Communities of interest are connections among voters that define the character of districts and grow the issues that matter to them. Clearly stating that districts shall not unduly favor or disfavor any political party, incumbent, candidate, or any racial or language group holds the legislators drawing the maps accountable to specific ethical standards. Having clear criteria will increase the understanding the voters have for this process, and make the legislators involved be more open and accountable about the maps they propose.

Now, while we are still in this process of redistricting, it is the time to apply what we are learning and legislate criteria that will improve the process and the resulting maps after the census of 2030.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully,

Linda Olson Bundy

Antrim

Voting Sheets

Report ✓

**Senate Election Law
& Municipal Affairs Committee**
EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD
2022 Session

Bill SB 255

Hearing date: 1/31/22

Executive Session date: 2/14/22

Motion of: IS Vote: 3-2

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: _____ Vote: _____

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: _____ Vote: _____

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reported out by: Sen. Gray

Notes: _____

Committee Report

General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

Docket of SB255

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: establishing redistricting criteria.*Official Docket of SB255.:*

Date	Body	Description
12/14/2021	S	To Be Introduced 01/05/2022 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; SJ 1
1/27/2022	S	Hearing: 01/31/2022, Room Representatives Hall, SH, 01:20 pm; SC 5
2/15/2022	S	Committee Report: Referred to Interim Study, 02/24/2022; SC 8
2/24/2022	S	Refer to Interim Study, RC 13Y-10N, MA; 02/24/2022; SJ 4

NH House

NH Senate

Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: SB 255

Senate Committee: ELMA

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

Final docket found on Bill Status

Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}

- Bill version as it came to the committee
- All Calendar Notices
- Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)
- Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing
- Hearing Report
- Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

___ - amendment # _____ ___ - amendment # _____
 ___ - amendment # _____ ___ - amendment # _____

- Executive Session Sheet
- Committee Report

Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

___ - amendment # _____ ___ - amendment # _____
 ___ - amendment # _____ ___ - amendment # _____

Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}

- ___ Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):
- ___ Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)
- ___ Governor's Veto Message

All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}

___ as amended by the senate ___ as amended by the house
 ___ final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

Trucea Melillo
Committee Aide

6/20/22
Date

Senate Clerk's Office [Signature]