A bill for an act

relating to redistricting; establishing districting principles for legislative and congressional plans; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 2.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **[2.92] DISTRICTING PRINCIPLES.**

Subdivision 1. **Applicability.** The principles in this section apply to legislative and congressional districts.

Subd. 2. **Nesting.** A representative district may not be divided in the formation of a senate district.

Subd. 3. **Contiguity; compactness.** The districts must be composed of convenient contiguous territory. To the extent consistent with the other principles in this section, districts should be compact. Contiguity by water is sufficient if the water is not a serious obstacle to travel within the district.

Subd. 4. **Numbering.** (a) The legislative districts must be numbered in a regular series, beginning with house district 1A in the northwest corner of the state and proceeding across the state from west to east, north to south, but bypassing the 11 county metropolitan area until the southeast corner has been reached; then to the 11 county metropolitan area outside the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul; then in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

(b) The congressional district numbers must begin with district one in the southeast corner of the state and end with district eight in the northeast corner of the state.

Subd. 5. **Data to be used.** The geographic areas and population counts used in maps, tables, and legal descriptions of the districts must be those used by the Geographic Information Systems Office of the Legislative Coordinating Commission. The population

counts will be the block population counts provided under Public Law Number 94-171, subject to correction of any errors acknowledged by the United States Census Bureau.

Subd. 6. **Data ready; plans posted.** The director of the Geographic Information Systems Office shall notify the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives when the necessary census data has been received from the United States Census Bureau, loaded into the legislature's computerized redistricting system, and verified as ready for use in redistricting. A redistricting plan must not be considered for adoption by the senate or house of representatives until:

(1) the notice has been given; and

(2) a block equivalency file showing the district to which each census block has been assigned, in a form prescribed by the director of the Geographic Information Systems Office, has been filed with the director.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment and applies to districts effective at the state primary in 2012 and thereafter.