

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

1 A Resolution advising legislative service bureau of the
2 reasons for the Senate's rejection of Senate File 540.

3 WHEREAS, Joint Rule 24.1 requires that if either
4 house rejects a redistricting plan submitted by the
5 legislative service bureau that house shall convey the
6 reasons for such rejection to the legislative service
7 bureau by resolution; NOW THEREFORE,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
9 requests that the next plan drafted by the legislative
10 service bureau improve the population deviations to
11 more nearly represent the ideal of "one person, one
12 vote"; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Iowa Code section
14 42.4(4) entitled "Redistricting Standards" states, "It
15 is preferable that districts be compact in form, but
16 the standards established by subsections 1, 2 and 3
17 take precedence over compactness where a conflict
18 arises between compactness and these standards." Iowa
19 Code section 42.4(1),(2), and (3) state the preferred
20 standards are population equalities, contiguous
21 territories, and district boundaries coinciding with
22 political subdivisions. Additionally, courts have
23 consistently held that lower population deviations
24 from the ideal population should take precedence over
25 compactness of the districts as defined in the Iowa
26 Code. Therefore, the next plan should more closely
27 follow those guidelines; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate requests a
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1 plan that at a minimum matches, or improves upon, the
2 population deviation in our current Congressional and
3 legislative districts; and,

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in addition, the
5 Senate requests the legislative service bureau in the
6 next plan, strive to develop Congressional and
7 legislative districts that reflect urban and rural
8 interests in our state to the extent consistent with
9 the Iowa Code. Plan #1 regionalized Iowa at the
10 Congressional level. The districts that are included
11 in Plan #2 should better reflect the convenient,
12 contiguous territory of our state.

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SENATE RESOLUTION 50

S-3647

1 Amend Senate Resolution 50 as follows:

2 1. By striking page 1, line 5 through page 2,
3 line 12 and inserting the following:

4 "WHEREAS, the legislative service bureau upheld
5 admirably the spirit and integrity of Iowa's
6 nonpartisan, nonpolitical process for redistricting;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the first plan presented by the
9 legislative service bureau to the legislature
10 maximized the compactness of Congressional and
11 legislative districts, maintained the boundaries of
12 counties and cities at unprecedented levels, and
13 maintained extremely low population deviations; and

14 WHEREAS, the first plan presented to the
15 legislature met and exceeded every requirement for
16 redistricting presented in the Iowa Code and in
17 existing case law; and

18 WHEREAS, the first plan presented established
19 districts that would have created competitive
20 elections and fostered greater public debate on key
21 issues that are of great concern to Iowans, including
22 the education of our children, ensuring quality health
23 care for our families, bringing quality jobs for our
24 workers, and improving Iowans quality of life; NOW
25 THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
27 extends its congratulations to the legislative service
28 bureau for drafting in an appropriate and nonpartisan
29 manner a first redistricting plan which meets and
30 exceeds all legal requirements, which maintains the
31 tradition of compact districts and the concept of "one
32 person, one vote", and which could allow for an
33 improved, fair political dialogue in Iowa."

By MICHAEL E. GRONSTAL

ROBERT E. DVORSKY

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LOST (p. 1500)

SENATE RESOLUTION 50

S-3648

1 Amend Senate Resolution 50 as follows:

2 1. Page 2, by inserting after line 12 the
3 following:

4 "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate requests
5 the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission to
6 schedule and conduct at least three public hearings,
7 in different geographic regions of the state, on a
8 second plan of legislative and Congressional
9 redistricting submitted by the legislative service
10 bureau to the general assembly pursuant to Iowa Code
11 section 42.3, subsection 2, and following the hearings
12 and prior to consideration of the second plan by the
13 general assembly, to prepare and submit to the
14 secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the
15 house a report summarizing information and testimony
16 received in the course of the hearings."

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