

HOUSE BILL No. 1342

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 3-5-10; IC 36-2-2-4.

Synopsis: County commissioner districts. Requires the county executive in certain counties to either redraw or recertify county commissioner districts not later than December 31, 2027. Provides that county commissioner districts in certain counties must contain, as nearly as is possible, equal population.

Effective: January 1, 2027.

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January 6, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Elections and Apportionment.



Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1342

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning elections.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 3-5-10-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.240-2025,
2 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JANUARY 1, 2027]: Sec. 7. (a) Subject to sections 7.1, **7.2**, and 8 of
4 this chapter, a redistricting authority shall redistrict election districts at
5 the following times:

6 (1) If the census event is a federal decennial census, the
7 following:

8 (A) For a county executive or county fiscal body, only during
9 the first year after the federal decennial census is conducted.

10 (B) For a school corporation, only during the first year after
11 the federal decennial census is conducted.

12 (C) For a municipality that conducts its municipal elections in
13 an odd-numbered year, only during the second year after the
14 federal decennial census is conducted.

15 (D) For a municipality that conducts its municipal elections in:

16 (i) an even-numbered year; or

17 (ii) both an even-numbered year and an odd-numbered year;



only during the first year after the federal decennial census is conducted.

(E) For the legislative body of a township in a county having a consolidated city, only during the first year after the federal decennial census is conducted.

(2) For a census event other than a federal decennial census, only during the first year after the year the census event becomes effective with respect to the political subdivision, as provided in IC 1-1-3.5-3.

(3) Whenever a county adopts an order declaring a county boundary to be changed under IC 36-2-1-2 that affects the boundaries of the political subdivision.

(4) Whenever required to assign annexed territory to a district, subject to the provisions of IC 36-4-3.

(5) Whenever the boundary of the political subdivision is changed.

(6) As provided in the order of a court that has found the current redistricting plan unconstitutional or otherwise unlawful.

(b) Except as provided in ~~section~~ **sections 7.1 and 7.2** of this chapter, a redistricting authority may not redistrict at a time other than is provided in subsection (a).

(c) A member of a redistricting authority described in subsection (a)(1) that fails to:

(1) redistrict election districts; or

(2) recertify existing districts under section 8 of this chapter;

within the deadlines established by subsection (a)(1) is not entitled to receive payment of any salary or fees, as fixed by law, until the redistricting authority complies with subsection (a).

SECTION 2. IC 3-5-10-7.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027]: Sec. 7.2. (a) This section applies to a county to which IC 36-2-2-4(a) applies.

(b) Not later than December 31, 2027, the county executive shall, with respect to districts required under IC 36-2-2-4(a), either:

(1) redraw districts to comply with IC 36-2-2-4(a); or

(2) recertify that existing districts comply with IC 36-2-2-4(a).

(c) This section expires July 1, 2028.

SECTION 3. IC 36-2-2-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.230-2025, SECTION 139, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027]: Sec. 4. (a) This subsection does not apply to the following counties:

(1) A county having a population of more than four hundred fifty



thousand (450,000) and less than seven hundred thousand (700,000).

(2) A county having a population of more than one hundred eighty-five thousand (185,000) and less than three hundred thousand (300,000).

The executive shall divide the county into three (3) districts that ~~are~~ **must be** composed of contiguous territory, ~~and are~~ **must be** reasonably compact, **and must contain, as nearly as is possible, equal population.** The district boundaries drawn by the executive must not cross precinct boundary lines and must divide townships only when a division is clearly necessary to accomplish redistricting under this section. If necessary, the county auditor shall call a special meeting of the executive to establish or revise districts.

(b) This subsection applies to a county having a population of more than four hundred fifty thousand (450,000) and less than seven hundred thousand (700,000). A county redistricting commission shall divide the county into three (3) single-member districts that comply with subsection (d). The commission is composed of:

- (1) the members of the Indiana election commission;
- (2) two (2) members of the senate selected by the president pro tempore, one (1) from each political party; and
- (3) two (2) members of the house of representatives selected by the speaker, one (1) from each political party.

The legislative members of the commission have no vote and may act only in an advisory capacity. A majority vote of the voting members is required for the commission to take action. The commission may meet as frequently as necessary to perform its duty under this subsection. The commission's members serve without additional compensation above that provided for them as members of the Indiana election commission, the senate, or the house of representatives.

(c) This subsection applies to a county having a population of more than one hundred eighty-five thousand (185,000) and less than three hundred thousand (300,000) that opts in to the system of county government described in subsection (d), sections 4.7(c) and 5(d)(2) of this chapter, IC 36-2-3-2(b), IC 36-2-3-4(c), and IC 36-2-3.5-1(2) by passing a resolution by a majority vote of its executive body not later than September 1, 2023. In the event the executive body of a county described in this subsection does not opt in by September 1, 2023, the county shall be governed by the general provisions of this chapter. The executive shall divide the county into three (3) single-member districts that comply with subsection (d).

(d) Single-member districts established under subsection (b) or (c)



- 1 must:
- 2 (1) be compact, subject only to natural boundary lines (such as
- 3 railroads, major highways, rivers, creeks, parks, and major
- 4 industrial complexes);
- 5 (2) contain, as nearly as is possible, equal population; and
- 6 (3) not cross precinct lines.
- 7 (e) Except as provided by subsection (f), a division under subsection
- 8 (a), (b), or (c) shall be made only at times permitted under IC 3-5-10.
- 9 (f) If the county executive or county redistricting commission
- 10 determines that a division under subsection (e) is not required, the
- 11 county executive or county redistricting commission shall adopt an
- 12 ordinance recertifying that the districts as drawn comply with this
- 13 section.
- 14 (g) Each time there is a division under subsection (e) or a
- 15 recertification under subsection (f), the county executive or county
- 16 redistricting commission shall file with the circuit court clerk of the
- 17 county, not later than thirty (30) days after the division or
- 18 recertification occurs, a map of the district boundaries:
- 19 (1) adopted under subsection (e); or
- 20 (2) recertified under subsection (f).
- 21 (h) The limitations set forth in this section are part of the ordinance,
- 22 but do not have to be specifically set forth in the ordinance. The
- 23 ordinance must be construed, if possible, to comply with this chapter.
- 24 If a provision of the ordinance or an application of the ordinance
- 25 violates this chapter, the invalidity does not affect the other provisions
- 26 or applications of the ordinance that can be given effect without the
- 27 invalid provision or application. The provisions of the ordinance are
- 28 severable.
- 29 (i) IC 3-5-10 applies to a plan established under this section.

