

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

BILL SUMMARY

Note: This form must be completed and accompany all Bills submitted for consideration by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate.

DELEGATE NAME: Riley Owen

DELEGATE STATE: California

NAME OF BILL: Federal Districting Bureau (FDB)

BRIEF SUMMARY OF BILL: To establish a bureau to determine congressional districts nationwide by an interdependent and bipartisan commission on the basis of population, economic status, and social atmosphere to eliminate the practice of gerrymandering.

To Be Completed By
The Clerk Of The Senate

BILL NO.

SB-35

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION SENATE

IN THE SENATE OF AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Senator **Riley Owen** of **California** introduced the following Bill, which was read twice and referred to the following American Legion Boys Nation Senate Committee:

a Bill

1 Every ten years, states re-draw their congressional lines using the decennial results from the
2 census bureau. Most states leave the redistricting responsibilities up to their own legislators
3 where they are given full responsibility for drawing the number of districts allotted by the census
4 bureau. Here is where our democratic system becomes corrupted. These politicians
5 manipulate districts to maximize their own political agenda while minimizing the value of voters
6 with opposing ideas by carving the borders of districts to include or exclude certain areas.
7 Typically, the majority party in the state redistricts to enhance the voting power of their
8 supporters. This practice is known as gerrymandering.

9

10 In 42 of the states, politicians have this excessive power to not only represent the people, but
11 now determine the power of their voices. Only four states have set up commissions
12 independent of lobbyists, politicians, or legislative staff, to determine congressional districts.
13 Only four states democratically represent their constituents and their right to an equal vote.

14

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION SENATE ASSEMBLED, THAT
16 The Federal Districting Bureau (FDB) comprised of an independent commission be created to
17 establish just and fair congressional boundaries to protect each citizen's right to democratic
18 representation.

19

20 The FDB will have 150 commissioners with each state sending three delegates to the
21 commission: one democrat, one republican, and one minority party or unaffiliated
22 commissioner. Commissioners may not have a legislative background and must have
23 maintained their current political affiliation for a minimum of five years prior to their

24 appointment. They must also have voted in two of the three past state and federal elections.

25 Requirements for selection shall be determined by each state.

26

27 The FDB shall be under the supervision of the Attorney General.

28

29 The Bureau will be responsible for redrawing congressional districts every ten years. The FDB
30 will only be operational for one year after census data is released. At the conclusion of the
31 year, new congressional districts will be announced and the term of the commissioners will
32 have expired. Commissioners may not serve multiple terms.

33

34 A 2/3 vote from the Federal Commission is required for the creation all congressional districts.

35

36 This bill will be enacted 90 days after passage.