

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 460—COMMITTEE ON  
LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

MARCH 23, 2015

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Expresses the intent of the Legislature to increase its membership in the next reapportionment and redistricting cycle. (BDR 17-1126)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to the Legislature; expressing the intent of the Legislature to increase its membership in the next reapportionment and redistricting cycle; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

1 The Nevada Constitution requires the Legislature after each decennial census of  
2 the United States to fix by law the number of members of the Senate and Assembly  
3 and apportion them among the state's legislative districts according to population.  
4 (Nev. Const. Art. 1, § 13, Art. 4, § 5, Art. 15, § 13) This bill: (1) expresses the  
5 intent of the Legislature to increase the number of members of the Senate and the  
6 number of members of the Assembly during its next reapportionment and  
7 redistricting cycle; and (2) directs the Legislative Counsel Bureau to study, before  
8 the next reapportionment and redistricting cycle, issues relating to logistical  
9 impediments to increasing the size of the Legislature and transmit the results of the  
10 study to the Legislative Commission.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 218B of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:*  
4 *(a) The Nevada Constitution imposes a mandatory duty on the*  
5 *Legislature after each decennial census of the United States to fix*  
6 *by law the number of members of the Senate and Assembly and*



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1 *apportion them among the state's legislative districts according to*  
2 *population.*

3 *(b) The Nevada Constitution also requires that the number of*  
4 *members of the Senate must not be less than one-third nor more*  
5 *than one-half of the number of members of the Assembly and that*  
6 *the aggregate number of members of both Houses must not exceed*  
7 *75 total members.*

8 *(c) The Legislature last expanded the number of legislative*  
9 *districts over 30 years ago during the 1981 redistricting cycle,*  
10 *which took effect with the 1982 General Election, when it*  
11 *increased the number of members of the Senate from 20 to 21 and*  
12 *the number of members of the Assembly from 40 to 42.*

13 *(d) According to the 1980 decennial census and the 2010*  
14 *decennial census, during that 30-year period, the population of the*  
15 *State of Nevada increased exponentially from 800,493 to*  
16 *2,700,551.*

17 *(e) The mandatory duty of reapportionment and redistricting*  
18 *after each decennial census adds significantly to the workload of*  
19 *the Legislature during the 120-day regular session and, because*  
20 *the debate surrounding that task is inherently political, decisions*  
21 *are typically not reached until late in the session, thus leaving little*  
22 *time to address issues such as the implications of increasing the*  
23 *number of legislative districts and the logistical planning*  
24 *necessary to implement such an increase.*

25 *(f) The Legislature hereby expresses its intent that when the*  
26 *Legislature reapportions and redistricts the legislative districts*  
27 *during its next reapportionment and redistricting cycle, that the*  
28 *number of members of the Senate be increased from 21 to 22 and*  
29 *that the number of members of the Assembly be increased from 42*  
30 *to 44 so each Legislator may better serve his or her constituency*  
31 *with a legislative district of a smaller size.*

32 *2. To assist the Legislature during its next reapportionment*  
33 *and redistricting cycle, the Director of the Legislative Counsel*  
34 *Bureau shall cause, before that reapportionment and redistricting*  
35 *cycle, the appropriate staff of the Legislative Counsel Bureau to*  
36 *study any logistical issues that would be required to be addressed*  
37 *if the Legislature increases the number of legislative districts,*  
38 *including, without limitation, office space, attendant staff for*  
39 *Legislators and seating in the chambers of each House. The*  
40 *Director shall transmit the results of the study to the Legislative*  
41 *Commission.*

