



1 constituent needs, as the less constituents that each delegate  
2 represents, the more time and energy a delegate has to devote to  
3 their needs;

4 (3) Single member districts provide enhanced accountability,  
5 as it is easier for citizens to follow the actions of one delegate  
6 than to follow the actions of many;

7 (4) Single member districts would aid in the implementation of  
8 campaign finance reform as these smaller districts would reduce the  
9 amount of money needed for candidates to successfully contest  
10 elections;

11 (5) Where large sums of money must be raised to compete in  
12 multidelegate districts, inordinate attention is given to the  
13 interests of contributors, and not the citizenry as a whole;

14 (6) Historically, multimember districts were a tactic used in  
15 the segregation era to deny minority voters the full exercise of  
16 their franchise;

17 (7) Multimember districts continue to cause the  
18 disenfranchisement of large groups of voters in whole regions of  
19 West Virginia, including among others, voters in eastern Kanawha  
20 County and Mason County;

21 (8) Only ten states do not use the single member district  
22 system; and

23 (9) That of all the states in the Union, only West Virginia  
24 and New Hampshire continue to have legislative districts consisting

1 of three or more members.

2 (b) The Legislature, therefore, declares it to be in the best  
3 interest of its citizens that:

4 (1) The State of West Virginia establish as a principle that  
5 single member delegate districts are needed for better functioning  
6 of our state's political system;

7 (2) Their use would lead to greater accountability and  
8 effective representation in our political process;

9 (3) They would serve as a check on corruption of our public  
10 life and our ideals;

11 (4) They would correct gross inequities currently present in  
12 our existing system; and

13 (5) To achieve these ends, the policy of the state is to enact  
14 a plan for single member districts.

15 (c) Based upon the legislative findings and declarations  
16 contained within this section, the House of Delegates is to be  
17 permanently composed of one hundred single member districts, with  
18 apportionment to meet Constitutional standards, based upon the  
19 results of the 2020 United States Census.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create one hundred single member districts after the 2020 census.

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.