1	H. B. 2367
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3 4 5	(By Delegates Cowles, Overington, Duke, Anderson, Andes, Evans, Romine, Ellem and Sumner)
6	[Introduced January 12, 2011; referred to the
7	Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.]
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10	A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
11	adding thereto a new section, designated $1-2-2c$, relating to
12	the redistricting of the House of Delegates into one hundred
13	single member districts after the 2010 census.
14	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
15	That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
16	by adding thereto a new section, designated $1-2-2c$, to read as
17	follows:
18	ARTICLE 2. APPORTIONMENT OF REPRESENTATION.
19	<u>§1-2-2c.</u> Redistricting.
20	(a) The Legislature finds that:
21	(1) Single member districts best exemplify the principle of
22	one person, one vote;
23	(2) Single member districts provide enhanced responsiveness to
24	constituent needs, as the less constituents that each delegate
25	represents, the more time and energy a delegate has to devote to

1 their needs;

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

5 <u>(4) Single member districts would aid in the implementation of</u> 6 <u>campaign finance reform as these smaller districts would reduce the</u> 7 <u>amount of money needed for candidates to successfully contest</u> 8 elections;

9 <u>(5) Where large sums of money must be raised to compete in</u> 10 <u>multidelegate districts, inordinate attention is given to the</u> 11 <u>interests of contributors, and not the citizenry as a whole;</u>

12 <u>(6) Historically, multimember districts were a tactic used in</u> 13 <u>the segregation era to deny minority voters the full exercise of</u> 14 their franchise;

15 <u>(7) Multimember districts continue to cause the</u> 16 <u>disenfranchisement of large groups of voters in whole regions of</u> 17 <u>West Virginia, including among others, voters in eastern Kanawha</u> 18 County and Mason County;

19 <u>(8) Only ten states do not use the single member district</u> 20 system; and

21 (9) That of all the states in the Union, only West Virginia
22 and New Hampshire continue to have legislative districts consisting
23 of three or more members.

24 (b) The Legislature, therefore, declares it to be in the best

1 interest of its citizens that:

2 (1) The State of West Virginia establish as a principle that 3 single member delegate districts are needed for better functioning 4 of our state's political system; 5 (2) Their use would lead to greater accountability and 6 effective representation in our political process; 7 (3) They would serve as a check on corruption of our public 8 life and our ideals; 9 (4) They would correct gross inequities currently present in 10 our existing system; and (5) To achieve these ends, the policy of the state is to enact 11 12 a plan for single member districts. (c) Based upon the legislative findings and declarations 13 14 contained within this section, the House of Delegates is to be 15 permanently composed of one hundred single member districts, with 16 apportionment to meet Constitutional standards, based upon the 17 results of the 2010 United States Census.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create one hundred single member districts after the 2010 census.

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

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