

HB 1666

Following the failure along straight party lines of my anti-gerrymandering bill in 2017 which sought to use a computer algorithm, based on an optimization process, to draw the district boundaries, I submitted a different bill using the efficiency gap. The efficiency gap is the basis of the *Whitford v. Gill* gerrymandering case from Wisconsin which was heard by the Supreme Court already this session.

The efficiency gap can not be used in advance to draw the districts so the bill calls for it to be used retrospectively. The efficiency gap is a measure of "wasted votes" which occur when districts are gerrymandered.

The bill calls for the efficiency gap to be calculated following the first general election following redistricting. If the efficiency gap exceeds 8%, then the redistricting plan will be submitted to an outlier analysis and if it exceeds 50% more than the highest efficiency gap of the simulated districts, then the redistricting plan will be deemed to be not valid and a new redistricting plan will be drawn up by an independent commission and then used at the next general election.

The goal of this is to force the party in power to not flagrantly gerrymander the districts as they will lose the right to draw the districts.

I expect that this bill will have a difficult uphill struggle.

If the Supreme Court strikes down the Wisconsin case, then this bill will likely be moot. If the Supreme Court supports the efficiency gap, then perhaps it will have a chance.

Rep. Jerry Knirk