



*Colorado Legislative Council Staff*  
**NO FISCAL IMPACT**

---

**Drafting Number:** LLS 04-0368

**Date:** December 30, 2003

**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Fairbank

**Bill Status:** House SVMA

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Ward (303-866-5834)

---

**TITLE:** CONCERNING MANDATORY CRITERIA TO BE USED BY COURTS IN DETERMINING CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

### **Summary of Assessment**

The bill prohibits courts from using certain factors, such as political party registration and election performance, in adopting or enforcing a congressional redistricting plan. Instead, the courts would only be allowed to use the following six factors, and only in the order listed:

1. population equality, contiguity, whole election precinct boundaries, and a prohibition on district overlap;
2. compliance with the federal "Voting Rights Act of 1965";
3. preservation of political subdivision boundaries, with precedence given to the most populous counties, cities, and towns;
4. preservation of communities of interest, including the traditional western slope and eastern plains communities of interest;
5. compactness; and
6. minimum disruption to prior district lines.

The bill specifies the factors that courts may use in considering congressional district boundaries, and prohibits the use of other factors. It will not affect the workload of the Judicial Branch or any other agency of state or local government. Therefore, it is assessed as having no fiscal impact. The bill would take effect upon signature of the Governor and would apply to judicial determinations made on or after that date.

### **Departments Contacted**

Law                      Judicial                      State