

## HB 2974

### **Introduces a statute requiring public input during the redistricting process in the form of public hearings**

This bill would require the Legislative Assembly or the Secretary of State to hold at least 10 public hearings prior to proposing a legislative or congressional redistricting plan and to the extent practical, to conduct at least five public hearings after a redistricting plan is proposed via video conferences or throughout state. Also sets forth criteria for where public hearings are to be located in Oregon.

**Why this? Why now?** The last redistricting occurred in 2011 and was notable for its comparatively easy success. Part of that success was attributable to the many public hearings leading up to the production of draft district maps. Community organizations and individuals provided district mapmakers with uniquely valuable information regarding changes in neighborhood demographics and specific communities of interest.

#### **This bill would:**

- Require a minimum of 10 public hearings at locations across the state before initial map drafting;
- Require a minimum of 5 public hearings after draft maps are created and establish a practicability standard for the number of meetings;
- Permit public hearings on proposed plan to be conducted via video conferences or throughout state;
- Provide appropriate notice of the public hearings;
- Prioritize location of public hearings in areas that have experienced the largest population shifts since the last redistricting. Require at least one of each type of hearing be held in close proximity to the areas with the largest population changes;
- Allow and make provision for public testimony from remote sites through the use of video equipment.