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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** In, as amended, Assembly Bill 415 relating to legislative redistricting. Senate Substitute Amendment one adopted.

[00:00:07] **Speaker 2** The question is Shall Senate substitute Amendment one be concurred in?

[00:00:22] **Speaker 1** Okay. Representative from the 66.

[00:00:36] **Speaker 3** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Assembly Democrats number one goal has been fair maps. We have seen the impact that the current gerrymander has had on our state, from missed opportunities to past popular policies that would improve the lives of the people of Wisconsin. To party line votes, passing harmful legislation. We know that fair maps are imperative to improving not only the legislative process, but our democracy as a whole. We, as a caucus, have been clear that we're open to engaging with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle on maps. If those conversations are in good faith and are going to produce a fair map. We need public input on anything in front of the legislature. But bringing a bill to the floor in less than 24 hours is not the way to consider a map that will have a lasting impact on our state. And the people of Wisconsin deserve better than an 11th hour bill. The map in front of us was changed specifically to protect Republican incumbents. This is wrong, and it puts politicians careers over the will of the people, GOP legislators. None of us should be using our power or authority to protect our own positions. We hope our colleagues will reconsider and respect the very clear directives the people of Wisconsin have given us to create fair maps through a fair process that will result in a strong democracy.

[00:02:10] **Speaker 2** Question is, shall Senate substitute Amendment one.

[00:02:12] **Speaker 1** Be concurred in?

[00:02:16] **Speaker 2** Representative from the 63rd.

[00:02:26] **Speaker 1** You know, when you've done this job long enough, you kind of think you've heard almost everything. I have been in this chamber long enough, and I have listened to enough speeches from people who are on the Democrats side of the aisle saying all they wanted. Was different maps. What's interesting is under the current maps, all the competitive seats about one, are held by Republicans because we have better candidates, a better message, and an ability to connect with people no matter where the district is in the entire state of Wisconsin. So if you would have taken yourself back in time to a previous legislature and talk to the minority Democrats and said, you're going to get the ability to adopt a map drawn by a Democrat governor, I think they would have fallen all over themselves to say, I can't believe this is what's occurring. And they would pinch themselves to make sure it was reality. So here we said today where we gave our Democrat colleagues the ability to adopt the map exactly, exactly as drawn by Governor Evers. What was their answer? No. Know the exact map as drawn by the Democrat governor submitted to the court over two weeks ago. And what was the answer from the Assembly? Democrats? No. Now, some in the media have been reporting that somehow we're circumventing the process of the courts. And the reality is that is ridiculous. Spin. The reality is, according to the Constitution, the power to redistrict the legislature lies with one of the three branches the legislature. We pass a law. It's signed by the governor and then the court reviews it. Actually in their December opinion, which seems like forever ago, but it was just relatively recent. Paragraph four quote the legislature has the primary authority and responsibility to draw new legislative maps. Wisconsin Constitution, article four, section three. Accordingly, we, the court, urge the legislature to pass legislation creating new maps that satisfy all state and federal laws. We are not circumventing anything. Read the opinion for yourself. The legislature redistrict. We are not taking anything away from the court. They are supposed to be the last resort. Not the first choice. So how could they not? How could we not if they just directed us to do this in December? Now, the map that we have before us makes very minuscule changes. Now we like our submission the best. I still think the map that was passed by a legislature signed by a governor. Is best. We had one that the court imposed that went all the way through both legislatures of both, courts, the U.S. and the state Supreme Court. Now, under the map that we're voting on today with the small tweaks for five members. The governor is getting 99% of what he asked for, 99%. And actually, the map that we're voting on today disenfranchizes fewer people than the governor's map because we were reunite a couple of the legislators with their communities and undo the most egregious political gerrymanders in this map. When somebody is 10ft or 15ft out of their district. That is a gerrymander. That didn't happen to a single one of the people on the left when the last two sets of maps were drawn. Not one. It was surgical, it was certain, and it was obviously Partizan. Now, I'm certain the reason they did that is because they've already identified political candidates. The DPW has already said it will fund you. The governor's already put the map together. For many of us, we worry that the fix is in. Because if you used a computer system, any technology whatsoever, and you randomize the drawing of the districts, what's the likelihood that half of the Republicans would be paired but only two of the Democrats? That is a mathematical impossibility unless it was intentional. It's obvious. Partizan intent. Now, we couldn't fix the vast majority of those. We only fixed the absolute most egregious cases. Now. They tried to ignore the natural geography of Wisconsin. They split up communities of interest, all to get a Partizan electoral number, which to them is the only thing that matters. It's partizanship. They've talked about it. They want a political gerrymander. That's the only way they can win the legislature. Now, what we're trying to do is to take the map that's in front of us and make it just a little bit more fair. A few of the most egregious examples on the edges. But in a divided government where we have heard people say, all they want us to do is to work together. When you get 99% of what you propose. Do you know what they call that in politics? A win. So why? When you get 99% of what you want with the people on the left side of the aisle, vote no against their own governors map. Now, I could quote Governor Evers. Actually, on January 12th, I read the statement again just to make sure I was accurate. Quote Wisconsinites don't want Republican or Democrat maps because Wisconsin isn't a red or blue state or a purple state. And our map should reflect that basic fact. He said he promised to fight for fair maps. We heard it again last night in this very chamber. These small tweaks don't add a single new district to either side of the aisle. Doesn't make one more Republican. Doesn't make one more Democrat. It is the exact same numbers for what they consider the composite. How many districts Donald Trump carried? How many districts Tony Evers carry? How many districts were carried by Ron Johnson? They are all the same. All we did is to take out a few of the most egregious examples of the extreme partizanship that was shown in the map drawing. It was fair in January, if you remember, when it was submitted, it was the most fair map, according to the governor. I didn't see a single Democrat disagree with Governor Evers saying it was the best map until today, when they have an ability to put their money where their mouth is, to actually push a button and say, I believe in fair maps drawn by the Democrat governor or I don't. What possible reason as you sit here and think about it and you're listening at home? Would there be for people to not accept 99% win? What would the reason be? Because they believe the fix is in with the Supreme Court. They believe the court is so partizan and so bought for and so influenced by the $10 million that was given to one of the justices. They're going to do whatever bidding they want. They can take 99% for a win, because they are certain the courts are going to give it to them. How embarrassing is that for our system, if we have so little respect for the court, that all we're going to do is accept the fact that they're going to do their political bidding. Now what? You just heard the lady from the 66.