



## **The Vermont Legislative Research Shop**

### **Multimember Districts**

As of 1998, thirteen states still had multimember districts (MMD) in at least one of their legislative bodies. In the past, changes in the use of MMDs have been focused not on, "population-based apportionment but on the quality of representation," especially that of women and minorities (NCSL, 1999). What follows is a concise report of MMD advantages and disadvantages.

#### **Advantages:**

Matland and Studlar (1996), Darcy et al (1994), Moncrief and Thompson (1992) agree that MMD electoral systems have substantially higher percentages of female legislators than single-member district (SMD) systems. According to Darcy et al (1994), "overall, the proportion of women running (13.5%) and winning (13.4%) in the

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