

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 4
By: Seliger
Redistricting
8/4/2011
Enrolled

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Texas Legislature is required to redistrict Texas congressional districts following publication of the United States decennial census.

The United States Supreme Court has ruled that under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution these districts must be substantially equal in population. This is sometimes referred to as the one-person, one-vote principle.

Based on the 2010 federal census, the total population of Texas is 25,145,561, and the ideal population of a Texas congressional district is 698,488. S.B. 4 seeks to establish districts that satisfy the requirement to be substantially equal in population and other state interests.

S.B. 4 amends current law relating to the composition of the congressional districts for the State of Texas.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

ARTICLE I

SECTION 1. (a) Provides that the members of the United States House of Representatives from the State of Texas are elected from the districts described by Article II of this Act.

(b) Provides that one member is elected from each district established by this Act.

(c) Provides that the districts established by this Act are identified as PLANC185 on the redistricting computer system operated by the Texas Legislative Council.

ARTICLE II

SECTION 1. Sets forth the composition of District 1.

SECTION 2. Sets forth the composition of District 2.

SECTION 3. Sets forth the composition of District 3.

SECTION 4. Sets forth the composition of District 4.

SECTION 5. Sets forth the composition of District 5.

SECTION 6. Sets forth the composition of District 6.

SECTION 7. Sets forth the composition of District 7.

SECTION 8. Sets forth the composition of District 8.

SECTION 9. Sets forth the composition of District 9.

SECTION 10. Sets forth the composition of District 10.

SECTION 11. Sets forth the composition of District 11.

SECTION 12. Sets forth the composition of District 12.

SECTION 13. Sets forth the composition of District 13.

SECTION 14. Sets forth the composition of District 14.

SECTION 15. Sets forth the composition of District 15.

SECTION 16. Sets forth the composition of District 16.

SECTION 17. Sets forth the composition of District 17.

SECTION 18. Sets forth the composition of District 18.

SECTION 19. Sets forth the composition of District 19.

SECTION 20. Sets forth the composition of District 20.

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SECTION 30. Sets forth the composition of District 30.

SECTION 31. Sets forth the composition of District 31.

SECTION 32. Sets forth the composition of District 32.

SECTION 33. Sets forth the composition of District 33.

SECTION 34. Sets forth the composition of District 34.

SECTION 35. Sets forth the composition of District 35.

SECTION 36. Sets forth the composition of District 36.

ARTICLE III

SECTION 1. Defines "tract," "block group," and "block" in this Act.

SECTION 2. Provides that it is the intention of the Texas Legislature that, if any county, tract, block group, block, or other geographic area has erroneously been left out of this Act, a court reviewing this Act should include that area in the appropriate district in accordance with the intent of the legislature, using any available evidence of that intent, including evidence such as that used by the Supreme Court of Texas in *Smith v. Patterson*, 111 Tex. 535, 242 S.W. 749 (1922).

SECTION 3. (a) Provides that this Act supersedes all previous enactments or orders adopting congressional districts for the State of Texas.

(b) Repealer: Chapter 2 (H.B. 3), Acts of the 78th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, 2003 (Article 197i (2003 Congressional Districts), V.T.C.S.).

SECTION 4. Provides that the districts set out in Article 2 of this Act apply to the election of the members of the United States House of Representatives from Texas beginning with the primary and general elections in 2012 for members of the 113th Congress. Provides that this Act does not affect the membership or congressional districts of the 112th Congress.

SECTION 5. Effective date: upon passage or on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.