

Existing law divides the state into 105 districts for election of members of the House of Representatives.

Prior law specified that such districts were effective at the opening of qualifying for the 2003 regular elections for purpose of election of members at the 2003 election and effective for all purposes beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Jan. 12, 2004.

New law changes the composition of Districts 2 and 4 in Caddo Parish; Districts 51 and 60 in Assumption Parish; and Districts 54 and 55 in Lafourche Parish. New law removes specific times for effectiveness of the representative districts and provides instead that the 105 representative districts are effective for all purposes.

New law specifies that the provisions of new law shall not affect or reduce the term of office of any House member elected at the regular election in 2003 or of any member elected pursuant to a special election held prior to the effective date of new law. Specifies that each member of the House in office on the effective date of new law shall be the member of the House for the district having the same designation as the district from which the member was elected and shall complete the term for which he was elected.

New law specifies that notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any vacancy occurring in House District No. 2, 4, 51, 54, 55, or 60 occurring prior to the next regular election of members of the legislature shall be filled from such district as amended by the provisions of new law.

Existing law specifies that precincts referenced in certain specified district descriptions in existing law are those adopted by the respective parish governing authorities under R.S. 18:532 and made effective no later than Jan. 1, 2000, for the purpose of establishing block boundaries for the 2000 federal decennial census, except that for precincts changed by court order or ordinance as provided by existing law and validated by the legislature prior to June 23, 2001, reference is to precincts so changed and validated. Existing law additionally specifies that certain specified precincts and precincts referenced in certain specified district descriptions in existing law are those adopted by the respective parish governing authorities pursuant to existing law (R.S. 18:532 or 532.1) or by court order, made effective for March 24, 2003, and contained in the precinct database of the Dept. of Elections and Registration as of March 24, 2003. Also specifies that if any such precinct has been subdivided on a nongeographic or geographic basis under existing law, the general precinct designation in the district description includes all nongeographic and geographic subdivisions of the precinct. Further provides that the territorial limits of the House districts as enacted shall continue in effect without change regardless of any changes made to the precincts by the parish registrar of voters or the parish governing authority.

Prior law additionally provided that when a precinct is consolidated by action of the parish governing authority pursuant to the provisions of existing law (R.S. 18:532.1(H)), the territorial limits of the districts as provided by law (R.S. 24:35.5) shall continue in effect without change.

New law specifies that precincts referenced in six district descriptions in new law are those adopted by the respective parish governing authorities pursuant to existing law (R.S. 18:532 or 532.1) or by court order, made effective for Nov. 1, 2003, and contained in the precinct database of the Dept. of Elections and Registration as of Nov. 1, 2003.

New law provides that when a precinct is consolidated or merged on a geographic basis by action of the parish governing authority pursuant to the provisions of existing law (R.S. 18:532.1), the territorial limits of the districts as provided by law (R.S. 24:35.5) shall continue in effect without change.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 25, 2004).

Population counts in the summaries accompanying this digest are derived from Census 2000 Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171), Summary File, Census of Population and Housing, Louisiana (U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, issued March 9, 2001), as validated and adjusted by staff of the Louisiana Legislature. Population data, statistical information, and maps are supplied for purposes of information and analysis and comprise no part of new law text.

(Amends R.S. 24:35.5(A)(intro. para.), (2), (4), (51), (54), (55), and (60) and (C);
Adds R.S. 24:35.5(B)(3))