

Statistical summaries of new law, including district variances from the ideal population of 42,561 and the range of those variances, as well as maps illustrating new district boundaries accompany this digest.

Existing constitution (Const. Art. III, §6(A)) requires the legislature, by the end of the year following the year in which the state's population is reported to the president of the U.S. for each federal decennial census, to reapportion the representation in each house as equally as practicable on the basis of population shown by the census.

Existing law (R.S. 24:35.5 enacted by Acts 2001, 2nd Ex. Sess., No. 3 and Acts 2003, No. 2) divides the state into 105 districts for election of members of the House of Representatives.

New law redraws Districts 11, 12, 52, 53, 74, 75, 79, 80, 81, and 82 effective for election purposes with the opening of the qualifying period for the 2003 primary election for members of the legislature.

New law retains existing law that specifies that precincts referenced in district descriptions in existing law are those adopted by the respective parish governing authorities under R.S. 18:532 and made effective not later than January 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. Also retains existing law that 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 retains existing law that 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.

New law additionally specifies that precincts referenced in 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 March 24, 2003, and contained in the precinct database of the Department of Elections and Registration as of March 24, 2003. New law additionally provides 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 the provisions of new law are severable and if any provision or item of new law or the application thereof is held invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or inability to enforce shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid or unenforceable provisions, items, or applications.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 3, 2003); except specifies that if any of the Louisiana House of Representatives Districts configured as provided in the provisions of new law fail to receive preclearance pursuant to the Voting Rights Act (42 U.S.C. §1973) on or before August 8, 2003, the specific provisions of new law relative to such districts shall be null, void, and without effect; and specifies that if none of the Louisiana House of Representatives Districts configured as provided in the provisions new law receive preclearance, the provisions in new law relative to precincts shall be

null, void, and without effect. (Note: Provisions of Act No. 174 were precleared by the U. S. Dept. of Justice on June 27, 2003.)

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 24:35.5(A)(11), (12), (52), (53), (74), (75), (79), (80), (81), and (82), (B), and (C))