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## DIGEST

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DeWitt, et al.

HB No. 779

**Abstract:** Provides for the redistricting of the House of Representatives and provides for the composition of Districts 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 62, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 82, 89, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, and 101. Effective for election purposes for the regular legislative elections in 2003 and for all purposes on Jan. 12, 2004.

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

Present 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 United States for each decennial federal census, to reapportion the representation in each house as equally as practicable on the basis of population shown by the census.

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

Proposed law reapportions the state's population in Districts 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 62, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 82, 89, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, and 101, effective for election purposes with the opening of the qualifying period for the 2003 primary election for members of the legislature.

Proposed law specifies that precincts referenced in district descriptions in present 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 present law and validated by the legislature prior to June 23, 2001, reference is to precincts so changed and validated. Also specifies that if any such precinct has been subdivided on a nongeographic or geographic basis under present 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.

Proposed law additionally specifies that references to Precincts 44 and 44A in Tangipahoa Parish in proposed law are those adopted by the respective parish governing pursuant to present law(R.S. 18:532.1), made effective for March 24, 2003, and contained in the precinct database of the Dept. of Elections and Registration as of March 24, 2003.

Proposed law retains present districts until 10:00 a.m., January 12, 2004, at which time present law is repealed and proposed districts are effective for all purposes.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action (specifies that districts contained in present law (R.S. 24:35.4) remain

effective, except for 2003 election purposes, until 10:00 a.m., January 12, 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 proposed law text.

(Amends R.S. 24:35.5(A)(11), (12), (13), (19), (20), (21), (62), (72), (73), (74), (75), (77), (82), (89), (91), (93), (94), (95), (96), (97), (98), (99), (100), and (101) and (B))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Changes the author from Representative Bruneau to Representatives DeWitt, Bruneau, and Lancaster.
2. Removes certain references generally to precincts adopted by the respective governing authorities or precincts changed by court order which were effective March 24, 2003, and instead specifies that references to Precincts 44 and 44A in Tangipahoa Parish are those adopted by the parish governing authority and made effective by March 24, 2003, and in the precinct database of the Dept. of Elections and Registration as of March 24, 2003.