

Existing U.S. Constitution (14th Amendment) provides that representatives in congress shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state. The U.S. Supreme Court has held that the population of congressional districts in the same state must be as nearly equal in population as practicable.

Prior law divided the state into seven districts for election of La.'s representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives.

New law divides the state into six congressional districts, effective for election purposes with the opening of the qualifying period for the 2012 primary election for members of congress. Provides for six districts within an overall range of 0.03% of the ideal population of 755,562. Provides for a majority minority population in the Second Congressional District.

New law specifies that precincts referenced in district descriptions are those precincts identified as Voting Districts (VTDs) in the 2010 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles for the state of La. Also specifies that if any such precinct has been subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a nongeographic basis or subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a geographic basis in accordance with existing law, the enumeration of the general precinct designation shall include all nongeographic and all geographic subdivisions thereof. Further provides that the territorial limits of the districts as enacted shall continue in effect without change regardless of any changes made to the precincts by the parish governing authority.

New law specifies that the effectiveness of the law for 2012 election purposes does not reduce the term of congressmen elected at the 2010 congressional election or elected to fill a vacancy for the remainder of a term which began on Jan. 3, 2011. Further specifies that the provisions of new law shall not reduce the term of office of any person holding any position or office on the effective date of new law, for which the appointment or election is based upon a congressional district as composed pursuant to prior law. Specifies that any position or office filled after Jan. 3, 2013, for which the appointment or election is based on a congressional district shall be appointed or elected from a district as it is described in new law.

New law retains districts as provided in prior law until noon on Jan. 3, 2013, at which time prior law is repealed and the districts provided in new law become effective for all purposes.

Effective in part upon signature of governor (April 14, 2011); effective for election purposes only for the regular congressional elections in 2012; effective for all purposes at noon on Jan. 3, 2013. See Act.

(Adds R.S. 18:1276.1; Repeals R.S. 18:1276)