

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.

Existing law divides the state into seven districts for election of Louisiana's representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives.

New law redraws district boundaries for the seven congressional districts, effective for election purposes with the opening of the qualifying period for the 2002 primary election for members of congress.

New law specifies that precincts referenced in district descriptions 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 or pursuant to court order or by 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 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 congressional 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 specifies that it does not reduce the term of congressmen elected at the 2000 congressional election or elected to fill a vacancy for the remainder of a term which began on January 3, 2001. Requires that a vacancy in congress filled after January 3, 2003, be filled from the new district.

New law retains existing districts until noon, January 3, 2003, at which time existing law is repealed and the new districts are effective for all purposes.

Effective for election purposes only for the regular congressional elections in 2002; effective for all purposes on Jan. 3, 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.

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