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 DIGEST

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SB 80 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Fields

Proposed law requires a local governing body to hold at least two public hearings prior to the adoption of any redistricting plan. Further requires at least one hearing to be held within seven days after the publication of any proposed redistricting plan. Proposed law further provides that each member of the public in attendance at a public redistricting hearing of a local governing body is entitled to testify in accordance with the rules of the local governing body.

Proposed law requires the legislature to conduct a series of public hearings at different locations throughout the state, following the release of the redistricting data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census after each federal decennial census, to solicit public comment concerning the development of redistricting plans subject to enactment by the legislature. Proposed law requires the public hearings to be broadcast live via the internet. Provides that if a technical difficulty occurs, the hearing shall be temporarily paused to address it; however the failure to resolve the issue shall not require the hearing to be terminated nor construed as a violation of proposed law.

Proposed law requires the legislature to establish, maintain, and update a redistricting website and establishes minimum content requirements.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 18:1922.1 and R.S. 24:991 and 992)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Authorize local governing bodies and the joint governmental affairs committee to determine the length of public testimony by rule.
2. Remove requirements for a set number of roadshow hearings to be held in predetermined locations.
3. Require the publication of any redistricting plans submitted to the joint governmental affairs committee to the redistricting website.
4. Remove the requirement that any analysis that has been performed by or on behalf of the state concerning currently enacted redistricting plans be published to the redistricting website.
5. Make technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove requirement that public hearings be conducted by the joint governmental affairs committee and related provisions and remove specific presentation requirements at the hearings.

2. Provide instead that the legislature shall conduct the hearings and the hearings begin after the release of the redistricting data from the U.S. Census Bureau.
3. Provide that the hearings shall be broadcast live via the internet rather than streamed in real time and include provisions dealing with any technical difficulty occurring with the broadcast of a hearing.
4. Change provisions regarding the redistricting website to instead require specified minimum content standards rather than a specific list of required content.