

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 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.

Existing law (R.S. 24:35.4) divides the state into 105 districts for election of members of the House of Representatives.

New law reapportions the state's population for representation in the House and redraws district boundaries for 105 House districts, effective for election purposes with the opening of the qualifying period for the 2003 primary election for members of the legislature.

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 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New law retains existing districts until 10:00 a.m., January 12, 2004, at which time existing law (R.S. 24:35.4) is repealed and new districts are effective for all purposes.

Effective upon signature of governor (October 16, 2001); except repeal of R.S. 24:35.4 is effective at 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 new law text.

(Adds R.S. 24:35.5; Repeals R.S. 24:35.4)