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2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
EXCERPT OF SENATE PROCEEDINGS
REGARDING REAPPORTIONMENT

MARCH 21, 2002
VOLUME 1 of 1
SENATE CHAMBER, THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:
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Tallahassee, Florida

1 SENATE MEMBERS
 2 PRESIDENT JOHN M. MCKAY
 SENATOR GINNY BROWN-WAITE, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
 3 SENATOR CHARLIE BRONSON
 SENATOR LOCKE BURT
 4 SENATOR WALTER G. CAMPBELL, JR.
 SENATOR LISA CARLTON
 5 SENATOR CHARLIE CLARY
 SENATOR LEE CONSTANTINE
 6 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN
 SENATOR VICTOR D. CRIST
 7 SENATOR M. MANDY DAWSON
 SENATOR ALEX DIAZ de la PORTILLA
 8 SENATOR BUDDY DYER
 SENATOR HOWARD E. FUTCH
 9 SENATOR RUDY GARCIA
 SENATOR STEVEN A. GELLER
 10 SENATOR BETTY S. HOLZENDORF
 SENATOR JIM HORNE
 11 SENATOR DARYL L. JONES
 SENATOR JAMES E. KING, JR., MAJORITY LEADER
 12 SENATOR RON KLEIN
 SENATOR JACK LATVALA
 13 SENATOR JOHN F. LAURENT
 SENATOR ALFRED LAWSON, JR.
 14 SENATOR TOM LEE, RULES CHAIRMAN
 SENATOR KENDRICK B. MEEK
 15 SENATOR LESLEY MILLER, JR.
 SENATOR RICHARD MITCHELL
 16 SENATOR DURELL PEADEN, JR.
 SENATOR BILL POSEY
 17 SENATOR KEN PRUITT
 SENATOR TOM ROSSIN, DEMOCRATIC LEADER
 18 SENATOR DEBBY P. SANDERSON
 SENATOR BURT L. SAUNDERS
 19 SENATOR JIM SEBESTA
 SENATOR RONALD A. SILVER
 20 SENATOR ROD SMITH
 SENATOR DONALD C. SULLIVAN, M.D.
 21 SENATOR J. ALEX VILLALOBOS
 SENATOR DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
 22 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER
 SENATOR STEPHEN R. WISE
 23
 24 FAYE W. BLANTON, SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
 25
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1 House plan as housed on the floor of the House, so
 2 we could avoid a conflict and bring in a product
 3 before the end of our 60-day session, which is
 4 what this represents.
 5 Now, I won't go through, unless anybody would
 6 particularly like it, the full hour-long
 7 explanation of all 25 districts that we heard
 8 several times the other day. What I would like to
 9 concentrate on is the changes between this map and
 10 the map that -- the final amendment that was voted
 11 on and approved by the body, adopted by the body
 12 the other day. And if you would zero in, please,
 13 on the Tampa Bay area, I would represent to the
 14 body that the changes between this amendment and
 15 the amendment adopted the other day, the final
 16 amendment adopted the other day, are entirely
 17 within the Tampa Bay area, which is Congressional
 18 Districts 5, 9, and 12, and the Orlando, Seminole,
 19 Volusia County area, which is Districts 7 and 24.
 20 Let's take the Tampa Bay area first. And we
 21 were able to accomplish several things in the
 22 agreement with the House of Representatives.
 23 First of all, we were able to reduce Hillsborough
 24 County in the number of Congressional districts in
 25 which Hillsborough County was split from four
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1 PROCEEDINGS
 2 (Quorum call.)
 3 MR. PRESIDENT: Senators, we are on House
 4 Bill 1993. Read the bill.
 5 THE READING CLERK: House Bill 1993, a bill
 6 to be entitled, An act relating to the
 7 establishment of Congressional districts.
 8 MR. PRESIDENT: Senators, can I have your
 9 attention? We are going to propose an amendment
 10 to the House bill on Congressional apportionment.
 11 And as soon as we finish this bill, we will take a
 12 20-minute recess for dinner, which is in the
 13 Senate lounge. Then we'll come back to work on
 14 the special order calendar longer. Senator from
 15 the 19th is recognized to explain the bill.
 16 SENATOR LATVALA: Thank you, Mr. President.
 17 I'm very happy to present this amendment, along
 18 with Senator Webster as the cosponsor, which
 19 represents an agreement with the House of
 20 Representatives on the issue of Congressional
 21 redistricting in the state of Florida. We have
 22 been having discussions with Representative
 23 Diaz-Balart informally now for some time trying to
 24 resolve the differences between the Senate plan as
 25 introduced and brought through committee and the
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1 districts to three districts. And this is
 2 especially important because Hillsborough County
 3 is a Voting Rights' county and one of the
 4 standards in Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act
 5 relates to the dilution of minorities and we get
 6 some credit for having reduced the number of ways
 7 that a Voting Rights' county is split. So, we
 8 have reduced Hillsborough County from being in
 9 four Congressional districts currently to three
 10 Congressional districts in this map.
 11 Pasco County also, which is currently
 12 represented by three members of Congress, would be
 13 reduced in this map to being represented by two
 14 members of Congress. We retained the communities
 15 of interest between north Pinellas and west Pasco
 16 County, which were in this Congressional district
 17 between 1982 and 1992 and we retained the
 18 communities of interest in all of the suburbs of
 19 the city of Tampa in the other districts.
 20 District 12, well, maintains most of the
 21 unincorporated but well-cohesive community of
 22 Brandon as well as the Sun City Center area, as
 23 well as much of the agricultural area that abuts
 24 District 12 in Polk County. District 9 retains
 25 much of the area currently represented by the
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1 incumbent in Congressional District 9 in the
2 Seffner, Valrico area of the Thonotosassa picks up
3 some additional unincorporated area south of that
4 area.
5 In the Orlando area we have, in Congressional
6 District 24, which is the new district, we have
7 tied the agricultural areas of west Seminole
8 County and northwest Orange County, around
9 Zellwood, which is well known nationally for
10 Zellwood corn and all of the agricultural area
11 around there with the agricultural area of eastern
12 Seminole County as well as the agricultural area
13 in east Orange County and in the center of Volusia
14 County.
15 We have moved the Congressional District 7
16 incumbent into his district, which he has not been
17 able to live in for the last ten years, and in
18 this map that incumbent will live in his district.
19 We have also tied the coastal area of Brevard
20 County and the Canaveral National Seashore which
21 covers both Volusia and Brevard along the coastal
22 area together in one Congressional district with
23 the area around the Cape, which is an important
24 part of the space industry.
25 We have tied the high-tech industries of
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1 north Brevard County with similar industries up
2 the coast in Volusia as well as in the eastern
3 part of Orange County. That, I think, is a pretty
4 good explanation of the changes in the map. With
5 regard to the demographics of the district,
6 Congressional District 7 will have a Republican
7 registration advantage of 43 to 39 percent.
8 Congressional District 24 will have a registration
9 of 45 percent Republican, 36 percent Democrat.
10 District 5, which is currently represented by
11 Congressman Thurman, will have a balance of
12 42 percent Republican, 41 percent Democratic
13 registration. And this map, by the way, is moved
14 into the northwest corner of Polk County, north of
15 the interstate. It's part of accommodating the
16 reduction in the number of districts in
17 Hillsborough County.
18 And then Congressional District 9 will have a
19 44 to 36 percent registration advantage for
20 Republicans. I think that's a pretty succinct
21 description, we went through a lot of the other
22 demographics. And as I said, there's virtually no
23 change to any other district in the state from the
24 map that was adopted the other day.
25 MR. PRESIDENT: Is there discussion, is there
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1 debate? Senator from the 28th, for what purpose
2 do you rise?
3 SENATOR KLEIN: Question from the Senator.
4 MR. PRESIDENT: You are recognized, Senator,
5 and the Senator yields.
6 SENATOR KLEIN: Just procedural, Senator, you
7 want to take up the amendment now, and do you want
8 to debate? I mean, there are a number of us that
9 have concerns with the amendment. Do you want to
10 handle that during the full bill discussion?
11 SENATOR LATVALA: Yes, we thought we would
12 bring the amendment up tonight, if the body adopts
13 it, it would rest overnight and everybody could
14 study it and we would have the debate on the final
15 plan as amended tomorrow.
16 SENATOR KLEIN: To follow up.
17 MR. PRESIDENT: You are recognized, Senator.
18 SENATOR KLEIN: With that in mind, I think
19 the members that do have concerns about this; and
20 certainly, the public needs to have plenty of time
21 to take a look at it, we'll reserve our comments
22 until the debate is on the full bill.
23 SENATOR LATVALA: Thank you.
24 MR. PRESIDENT: Further discussion, further
25 debate on the amendment? Further discussion,
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1 further debate? Senator from the 35th, for what
2 purpose do you rise?
3 SENATOR ROSSIN: To inquire of the Chair.
4 MR. PRESIDENT: You are recognized, Senator.
5 SENATOR ROSSIN: If you could, could you tell
6 us why there was a decision made to take this back
7 to second reading?
8 MR. PRESIDENT: So this bill amendment could
9 be passed relatively easier tonight, Senator,
10 without taking up on third reading, figuring the
11 debate would be similar and we will do the debate
12 on final passage on third reading. And we also
13 needed -- the Secretary instructed me that we also
14 needed to remove the amendment. Remember the
15 other evening, we were informed by the Secretary
16 that we cannot engross House bills, so where, with
17 the Senate bill, one amendment would replace the
18 previous bill in its entirety, with the House
19 bill, you have to withdraw one amendment once you
20 approve new amendments because we do not engross
21 House bills. It is strictly procedural.
22 Senator from the 33rd, for what purpose do
23 you rise?
24 SENATOR CAMPBELL: For a question.
25 MR. PRESIDENT: You are recognized and he
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1 yields.

2 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Since this is on second

3 reading, could I redo my motion and amend and

4 speak for another two hours? Whatever the will of

5 the body.

6 MR. PRESIDENT: Further discussion, Senator?

7 Further discussion, further debate? Seeing none,

8 Senator from the 19th moves -- what is the bar

9 code number again?

10 THE READING CLERK: Bar code 253382. And the

11 title is amended as follows: Delete everything

12 before the enacting clause and insert lengthy

13 amendment.

14 MR. PRESIDENT: All in favor, signify by

15 saying yea, opposed, nay.

16 (Voice vote taken.)

17 MR. PRESIDENT: Show it passing. Now, the

18 motion is to withdraw an amendment or to

19 reconsider an amendment that was earlier passed

20 because of the enrolling or the engrossing

21 difficulty. So, the Senator from the 19th moves

22 that the vote by which Amendment bar code 825100

23 passed be reconsidered. All of those in favor of

24 reconsideration, say yea, opposed, nay.

25 (Voice vote taken.)

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1 CERTIFICATE

2

3 STATE OF FLORIDA:

4 COUNTY OF LEON:

5 I, MONA L. WHIDDON, Court Reporter, certify

6 that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the

7 foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true

8 and complete record of my stenographic notes.

9 DATED this _____ day of _____, 2002.

10

11 _____

12 MONA L. WHIDDON

13 Court Reporter

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1 MR. PRESIDENT: Show the amendment passing.

2 Senator from the 19th moves or withdraws Amendment

3 bar code 825100. Is there further discussion; is

4 there further debate? Then, seeing none, pursuant

5 to Rule 4.19, the bill is placed on the calendar.

6 The bill is on third reading.

7 Senators, we are going to take a 20-minute

8 break, so we will come back at 7:20 and let me

9 have your attention for just a moment before

10 everybody scoots. We are going to come back for a

11 motion by the Senator for the 33rd, and after that

12 we are going to take up claims' bills. It is time

13 to take up claims' bills that have been on third

14 reading. So, by motion for the Senator of the

15 23rd, we will recess until 7:20 or until the call

16 of the President. We are in recess.

17 (End of Senate legislative session regarding

18 reapportionment.)

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