

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 594

SPONSOR: Reapportionment Committee, Reapportionment Subcommittee on Congressional Apportionment & Redistricting and Senator Latvala

SUBJECT: Congressional Redistricting

DATE: February 4, 2002 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Roberts	Roberts	REC	FAV/CS
2.	Roberts	Roberts	RE	FAV/CS
3.	_____	_____	RC	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill apportions Florida into 25 contiguous congressional districts.

II. Present Situation:

Florida is currently divided into 23 congressional districts. Congressional apportionment, which occurs at the federal level, is the process of allocating 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives among the 50 states based on the population of each state. At the conclusion of each decennial census, the Census Bureau uses the new population results to calculate the number of congressional seats each state is entitled to have. Based on the official apportionment counts submitted to the President of the United States by the Census Bureau on December 28, 2000, which were made pursuant to the equal proportions method set forth in Title 2, Chapter 1, Sections 2(a) and (b), United States Code, Florida is entitled to an additional two congressional seats, bringing the state total to 25.

Redistricting occurs in Florida during the regular legislative session in the second year after each federal decennial census. Redistricting is the process of adjusting legislative and congressional district boundaries to accommodate the reapportionment of the United States House of Representatives, as well as the population changes within the state based on the 2000 census. The 2000 census revealed that the population growth in Florida during the 1990's requires that the population of each congressional district be adjusted to correct population differences among the districts that have occurred since 1992.

The target population for a congressional district in Florida under the 2000 census is 639,295. Article I, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution requires that congressional districts within a state be as equal in population as practicable. Currently, the congressional district in Florida with the largest population has 800,902 persons, and the district with the smallest population has 577,167 persons.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

CS/SB 594 divides Florida into 25 contiguous congressional districts. A more detailed analysis of these districts can be found in the packet of statistics entitled, **Proposed Congressional Districts Plan S19C0005 by Sen. Latvala**, attached to this staff analysis.

The committee substitute has a range of population (total deviation from target) of one person statewide. The largest population of a congressional district under CS/SB 594 is 639,296 persons; the smallest population of a congressional district is 639,295 persons.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. Other Constitutional Issues:

The State Constitution does not address the issue of congressional redistricting. All redistricting plans are, however, subject to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. In accordance with Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act (42 U.S.C. ' 1973c), any statutory change to procedures relating to voting and elections insofar as the change affect voters in five counties in Florida – Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough, and Monroe – are subject to preclearance by the United States Department of Justice.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Fiscal impact, if any, will be minimal, as these changes would be implemented in regularly scheduled primary and general elections during the 2002 election cycle.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
