THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



Andy Gardiner President of the Senate



Steve Crisafulli Speaker of the House of Representatives

November 5, 2015

The Honorable Andy Gardiner President of the Senate

The Honorable Steve Crisafulli Speaker, House of Representatives

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on CS/SJR 2-C, 1st Eng., same being:

A joint resolution of apportionment,

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

- 1. That the House of Representatives recede from its Amendment 1 Barcode 328937.
- 2. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment (Barcode 351550) attached hereto and by reference made a part of this report.

Conferee on the part of the Senate

Manager on the part of the House of Representatives

Senator Bill Galvano, Co-Chair

Representative Jose R. Oliva, Co-Chair

The Conference Committee Amendment for CS/SJR 2-C, 1st Eng., A joint resolution of apportionment, provides for the following:

Summary Analysis

The Florida Constitution requires the Legislature, by joint resolution at its regular session in the second year after the United States Census, to apportion state legislative districts. The United States Constitution requires the reapportionment of the United States House of Representatives every ten years, which includes the distribution of the House's 435 seats between the states and the equalization of population between districts within each state.

The 2010 Census revealed an unequal distribution of population growth amongst the State's legislative and congressional districts. Therefore districts must be adjusted to correct population differences.

On February 9, 2012, the Florida Legislature passed SJR 1176, reapportioning the 120 state House districts and 40 state Senate districts. On March 9, the Court issued a 191-page majority opinion, unanimously finding the state House map valid. By a 5-to-2 vote, the Court found the state Senate map invalid. The Legislature then met in an Extraordinary Session and on March 27, passed SJR 2B, reapportioning the 40 state Senate districts. On April 27, by a 5-to-2 vote, the Court found the new state Senate map valid.

Shortly thereafter, the state Senate map was challenged in the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit in Leon County by the League of Women Voters of Florida and other groups as *The League of Women Voters of Florida vs. Kenneth W. Detzner*.

On July 28, 2015, before the case of *The League of Women Voters of Florida vs. Kenneth W. Detzner* was to go to trial, the Senate entered into a stipulation and consent judgment with the Plaintiffs and agreed the enacted state Senate map will be revised prior to the 2016 primary and general elections. Because the Plaintiffs and the Senate had entered into a stipulation that required the Senate Plan to be redrawn, the House did not object to the entry of the consent judgment and agreed to be bound by its terms.

<u>Redistricting Plan H110S9079</u>: As approved by the House Select Committee on Redistricting, map H110S9079 in CS/SJR 2-C reapportions the resident population of Florida into 40 State Senate districts, as required by state and federal law.

When compared to the existing 40 State Senate districts, this proposed committee bill will:

- Reduce the number of counties split from 24 to 16;
- Reduce the number of cities split from 47 to 13;
- Reduce the total perimeter, width and height of the districts, consistently, based on various geographical methods of measuring compactness;
- Maintain elected representation for African-American and Hispanic Floridians.

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Upon approval of the Legislature, the Plan will be the subject of an evidentiary hearing in the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit in Leon County as a part of *The League of Women Voters of Florida vs. Kenneth W. Detzner*. The evidentiary hearing has been set for December 14th through the 18th, 2015.