

Approved: May 9, 2012  
(Date)

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael O'Neal at 12:07 p.m. on Monday, May 7, 2012, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representative Schwab, who was replaced by Representative Smith.

### Committee staff present:

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dorothy Noblit, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Craig Callahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Mary Torrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

### Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Senator Steve Abrams, District 32  
Senator Terry Bruce, District 34  
Senator Ray Merrick, District 37  
Senator Rob Olson, District 23  
Senator Jeff King, District 15  
Senator Mary Pilcher Cook, District 10  
Senator Garret Love, District 38  
Senator Pat Apple, District 12

### Others in attendance:

See attached list.

The Chair opened the hearing on **HB 2794 – Redistricting; House districts.**

The Chair, responding to a question, replied that the map contained in the bill was the Cottonwood 2 map already passed by the House (Attachment 1). No conferees appeared to support or oppose the bill.

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## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE REDISTRICTING Committee at 12:07 PM on Monday, May 7, in 346-S of the Capitol.

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Members discussed the wisdom of proceeding with the hearings or waiting for another day to weigh the implications of other proposed maps. The consensus was to proceed with the hearings.

The hearing on **HB 2794** was closed.

The Chair opened the hearing on **HB 2795 – Redistricting: Senate districts**

Senator Steve Abrams, District 32, appeared in support of the bill (Attachments 2 and 3). He gave a brief history of “For the People” map, tracing its iterations to the present version (v 11), which, he said, received 19 votes in the Senate. He listed the benefits of the map:

- It keeps all senators in their own districts.
- It divides fewer counties and cities than other maps.
- It does not disenfranchise minority groups.
- It keeps the deviation below 5%, often much lower.

He noted the slight differences between version 11 and version 12, changes which moved Spring Hill from District 12 into District 23. Version 13 was then distributed, which addressed the concerns of senators affected by the changes in version 12 (Attachment 4). Members compared For the People 13 with the Ad Astra map that passed the Senate and was rejected by the House, noting that For the People did not collapse a district in western Kansas or separate the Hispanic communities in western Kansas.

Senator Terry Bruce, District 34, primarily addressed the effects of the Ad Astra map on minority groups (Attachment 5). He said the “communities of interest”—specifically the Hispanic communities in Liberal, Dodge City, and Garden City—were so diluted in the Ad Astra map as to render the map constitutionally flawed. Members discussed the impact of the federal Voting Rights Act on minority populations and noted that only three districts (4, 29, and 38) contain minority-majority populations. Some members noted that not collapsing District 38 increases the deviation in eastern Kansas. Another member commented that harm is increased if District 38 is collapsed.

Senator Ray Merrick, District 37, testified that the For the People 13 map addresses his concerns regarding Spring Hill and Johnson County (Attachment 13).

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Senator Rob Olson, District 23, also spoke in support of For the People 13, which provides adjustments that allay his concerns about Spring Hill and Johnson County.

Senator Jeff King, District 15, speaking in support of the For the People 13 version, commented on the guideline of keeping cities and counties whole. Noting that recently 17 counties in southeast Kansas formed an economic development coalition, he observed that For the People 13 reflects the integrity of the coalition boundaries even though it results in a higher deviation. Members again discussed the minority-majority issue and what impact different maps might have on a court review.

Senator Mary Pilcher Cook, District 10, testified in support of the For the People maps and, commenting on the Ad Astra map that passed the Senate, expressed concern that certain senate districts in eastern Kansas were declining in population and, under the Ad Astra map, had negative deviations, further diluting the voting power of these districts (Attachment 6). She encouraged members to support the For the People 12 map.

Senator Garret Love, District 38, commended the Committee for considering For the People 13 (Attachment 7). He noted that the minority population in his district exceeds 50%, and to collapse his district and spread the minority population over three districts is a clear disenfranchisement of a minority-majority population.

Senator Pat Apple, District 12, commented on versions 11, 12, and 13 of the For the People map. Answering a question, he said he supported version 13.

Jennifer Bruning, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, provided written testimony in opposition to **HB 2795** (Attachment 8).

The hearing on **HB 2795** was closed.

The Chair opened the hearing on **HB 2796 – Redistricting; State board of education member districts**.

Senator Abrams returned to offer support for the bill (See Attachment 2). He explained that a school board district is made up of four contiguous senate districts, and he asked the Committee to support the bill.

The hearing on **HB 2796** was closed.

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Members discussed the ramifications of choosing one of three proposed senate redistricting maps. The Chair declared a consensus of members preferred the For the People 13 senate map. Members discussed the possibility of two current incumbent State Board of Education members being placed in the same district.

At 2:02 p.m. the Chair announced a recess until 5:00 p.m.

At 4:57 the Committee reconvened. Staff distributed racial data for current senate districts and a map of the current state board districts (Attachments 9 and 10) as well as a packet of information regarding For the People 13 (Attachment 11). The latter information included a population summary report showing the deviation of each district.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to amend the contents of **HB 2794** (Cottonwood 2) into **SB 102**. (Motion by Representative Mast; seconded by Representative Aurand)

A new map, For the People 13b, was distributed to the Committee (Attachment 12).

Representative Brown made a motion, seconded by Representative Mast, to amend **HB 2795** by inserting For the People 13b into the bill to replace the original contents.

During discussion, a member noted that not collapsing a district in western Kansas resulted in increased deviation in eastern Kansas senate districts. Another member objected to extending District 19 north into Jefferson County. Members compared minority distributions between For the People 13b and the Ad Astra map. The Chair noted that the only change in 13b was to make Marion County whole.

The motion passed, 12-5.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to insert the amended contents of **HB 2795** into **SB 102**. (Motion, Representative Aurand; second, Representative Brown)

In considering the proposed State Board of Education map (**HB 2796**), staff explained that this year members of the even-numbered districts were up for re-election. A member commented that the new map puts Board Chairman David Dennis in the same district as member Walt Chappell. The Chair announced that the Committee will wait until the next day to work the bill.

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The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for noon on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

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