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## DIGEST

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HB 642 Original

2026 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

**Abstract:** Provides for the redistricting of congressional districts and provides for the composition of each of the six districts. Effective upon signature of governor for election purposes for the regular elections in 2028 and at noon on Jan. 3, 2029, for all other purposes.

Statistical summaries of proposed law, including district variances from the ideal population of 776,292 and the range of those variances, as well as maps illustrating proposed district boundaries accompany this digest. (*Attached to the bill version on the internet.*)

Present U.S. Constitution (14th Amendment) provides that representatives in congress shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state. The U.S. Supreme Court has held that the population of congressional districts in the same state must be as nearly equal in population as practicable.

Present law provides for six congressional districts based upon the 2020 federal decennial census.

Proposed law redraws district boundaries for the six congressional districts based upon the 2020 federal decennial census.

Proposed law provides that the new districts become effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action for election purposes only for the regular congressional elections in 2028. Retains present law districts based upon the 2020 census until noon on Jan. 3, 2029, at which time present law is repealed and the new districts based upon the 2020 census, as established by proposed law, become effective for all other purposes.

Proposed law specifies that precincts referenced in district descriptions are those precincts identified as Voting Districts (VTDs) contained in the file named "2026 Precinct Shapefiles (1-27-2026)" available on the La. Legislature's website. Specifies that the 2026 Precinct Shapefiles are based upon those Voting Districts (VTDs) contained in the 2020 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles for the State of Louisiana as those files have been modified and validated through the data verification program of the La. legislature. Also specifies that if any such precinct has been subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a nongeographic basis or subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a geographic basis in accordance with present law, the enumeration of the general precinct designation shall include all nongeographic and all geographic subdivisions thereof. Further provides that the territorial limits of the districts as enacted shall continue in effect until changed by law regardless of any subsequent change made to the precincts by the parish governing authority.

Proposed law specifies that proposed law does not reduce the term of office of any person holding any position or office on the effective date of proposed law for which the appointment or election is based upon a congressional district as composed pursuant to present law. Specifies that any position or office filled after Jan. 3, 2029, for which the appointment or election is based upon a congressional district shall be appointed or elected from a district as it is described in proposed law.

Population data in the summaries accompanying this digest are derived from 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171), Summary File for Louisiana. Population data, statistical information, and maps are supplied for purposes of information and analysis and comprise no part of proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action for election purposes only for the regular congressional elections in 2028; effective for all other purposes at noon on Jan. 3, 2029.

(Adds R.S. 18:1276; Repeals R.S. 18:1276.1)