

SUBJECT: Adjustments to eight House districts

COMMITTEE: Redistricting — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — D. Jones, Glaze, Giddings, Hightower, Kubiak, Price, Wilson
0 nays
4 absent — Grusendorf, Hunter, Marchant, Moreno

WITNESSES: For — None
Against — None
On — David Hanna, Texas Legislative Council

BACKGROUND : Changes to legislative districts must be precleared under sec. 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act by the U. S. Department of Justice.

DIGEST: The bill would make small adjustments among four pairs of House districts:

- District 56 (Rep. Averitt) and District 57 (Rep. Dunnam) in the McGregor area in McLennan County;
- District 83 (Rep. D. Jones) and District 84 (Rep. Isett) in the City of Lubbock;
- District 119 (Rep. Puente) and District 120 (Rep. McClendon) in downtown San Antonio; and
- District 131 (Rep. Wilson) and District 146 (Rep. Edwards) in Houston.

The district changes would apply beginning with the 1998 elections and would not affect the membership or districts for the 75th Legislature.

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The bill would take effect immediately if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house.

NOTES:

The committee substitute made the changes in the eight affected districts.

HB 6 by D. Jones, implementing a federal court settlement plan for state representative district boundaries, with some adjustments, passed the House on March 13 and the Senate on May 7 and has been sent to the governor. HB 6 would revise districts in Bexar (three), Dallas (14), Harris (19), Collin (two), Jefferson (two) and Williamson (two) counties.

Yesterday the House adopted a rule proposed by the Calendars Committee providing that an amendment to HB 2254 will be in order only if it was prepared using the Texas Legislative Council's Redistricting Application Computer System (REDAPPL) and would not change a district included in HB 6.