

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2022-C SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Community Affairs

SB 4-C — Independent Special Districts

by Senator Bradley

The bill provides for the dissolution of any independent special district established by a special act prior to the ratification of the Florida Constitution on November 5, 1968, which has not been reestablished, re-ratified, or otherwise reconstituted by special act or general law after such date. The bill provides that dissolution of the affected districts will occur on June 1, 2023, but that such special districts may be reestablished pursuant to the requirements and limitations of ch.189, F.S., on or after that date.

The bill appears to affect the following six independent special districts:

- Bradford County Development Authority (Bradford County)
- Eastpoint Water and Sewer District (Franklin County)
- Hamilton County Development Authority (Hamilton County)
- Marion County Law Library (Marion County)
- Reedy Creek Improvement District (Orange and Osceola Counties)
- Sunshine Water Control District (Broward County)

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2022.

Vote: Senate 23-16; House 70-38

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2022-C SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Community Affairs

SB 6-C — Social Media Platforms

by Senator Bradley

The bill amends the definition of “social media platform” as it pertains to the application of SB 7072, passed by the Legislature during the 2021 Regular Session and signed into law on May 24, 2021.

SB 7072 (2021) addressed some concerns related to social media platforms. Among other things, the bill created s. 501.2041, F.S., which provides that social media platforms must apply uniform standards, notify censored or deplatformed users, allow users to make certain choices, ensure posts by or about candidates for office in Florida are not shadow banned, and ensure that journalistic enterprises are not censored or deplatformed.

The definition of “social media platform” in s. 501.2041, F.S., specifically excludes any information service, system, Internet search engine, or access software provider operated by a company that owns and operates a theme park as defined in s. 509.013, F.S.

The bill removes the theme park exclusion from the definition of social media platform in s. 501.2041, F.S.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 24-15; House 70-38

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2022-C SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Reapportionment

SB 2-C — Establishing the Congressional Districts of the State

by Senator Rodrigues

Based on the 2020 United States Census, Florida was apportioned one additional seat in the United States House of Representatives (total of 28) for elections starting in 2022. The ideal population for each congressional district is 769,221. Florida's total population increased by 14.6 percent between the 2010 Census and the 2020 Census. Population growth was not even across the state.

Under state and federal law, it is the Legislature's duty to draw new congressional districts. In November 2010, voters amended the State Constitution and set standards for the Legislature to follow in legislative districting. Article III, s. 20(a), State Constitution provides:

- Districts cannot be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent.
- Districts cannot be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process; or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice.
- Districts must be contiguous.

Subsection (b) provides, unless it would conflict with federal law or the standards described in subsection (a):

- Districts must be as nearly equal in population as practicable.
- Districts must be compact.
- Districts must, where feasible, follow existing political and geographical boundaries.

Subsection (c) provides that the order in which the standards within subsections (a) and (b) of Section 20 are set forth shall not be read to establish any priority of one standard over the other within that subsection.

SB 2-C apportions the state into 28 congressional districts (plan P000C0109) as required by state and federal law.

All 28 congressional districts consist of contiguous territory and comply with the State Constitution's co-equal tier two requirements of districts being nearly equal in population as is practicable, compact, and utilizing existing political and geographical boundaries where feasible.

Plan P000C0109 contains five majority-minority districts: 9, 20, 26, 27, and 28.

As provided in Art. X, s. 8(a), State Constitution, the bill officially adopts the United States Decennial Census of 2020 as the official census of the state for the purposes of congressional redistricting.

The bill provided definitions regarding Census geography and the electronic versions of districts, designates the process for territory that is not specified for inclusion in any district or is noncontiguous, designates electronic maps as the authoritative representation of the state's congressional districts, and provides severability in the event that any provision of the bill is invalidated.

The districts prescribed in plan P000C0109 shall apply to the qualification, nomination, and election of congressional representatives in the primary and general elections of 2022 and thereafter.

The bill appropriated the nonrecurring sum of \$1 million from the General Revenue Fund for the purpose of litigation expenses incurred by the Florida Department of State.

The bill provides that the state court shall be the sole arbiter for state constitutional or state law legal challenges brought against districts in plan P000C0109.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law, except where otherwise provided.

Vote: Senate 24-15; House 68-38