

By Senator Rich

34-01375A-11

20111682

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Legislature; amending s. 1 of
3 chapter 2010-91, Laws of Florida; requiring the
4 Legislature to enact the maps of the state legislative
5 and congressional districts by a specified date in the
6 year 2012; providing an effective date.

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8 WHEREAS, the data and software to draw maps for the purpose
9 of reapportionment are available to all members of the
10 Legislature and the public, and

11 WHEREAS, Florida's schedule for apportioning legislative
12 districts is one of the latest in the nation and was created
13 before many of the advances in computing which allow maps to be
14 drawn nearly instantaneously, and

15 WHEREAS, it could take months for federal and state
16 agencies and the courts to approve all maps generated by the
17 Legislature, and

18 WHEREAS, if the present timeline remains intact, the best
19 case is that the citizens of the state will know their
20 legislative districts only days before candidates are required
21 to qualify, and

22 WHEREAS, the citizens of this state have the right to seek
23 public office and have a reasonable time to qualify and run
24 competitive races, and

25 WHEREAS, the citizens of this state should have the benefit
26 of an orderly election cycle that allows sufficient time to
27 review and decide on the candidate of their choice, NOW,
28 THEREFORE,

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30 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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32 Section 1. Section 1 of chapter 2010-91, Laws of Florida,
33 is amended to read:

34 Section 1. (1) In accordance with subsection (b) of Section
35 3 of Article III of the State Constitution and in lieu of the
36 date fixed therein, the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature
37 shall convene on January 10, 2012.

38 (2) By January 15, 2012, the Legislature shall enact the
39 maps for the state legislative and congressional districts which
40 are in accordance with the State Constitution and the United
41 States Constitution.

42 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.