

By Senator Galvano

26-00005-15C

20152C\_\_

Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution of apportionment; providing definitions; apportioning the senatorial districts of the state in accordance with the United States Decennial Census of 2010 (plan \_\_\_\_); providing for the inclusion of omitted areas; providing contiguity for areas specified for inclusion in one senatorial district which are noncontiguous; specifying that the apportioned districts constitute the senatorial districts of the state; providing for severability of invalid portions; providing for application beginning in 2016.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Official census for apportionment; definitions.-

(1) In accordance with s. 8(a), Art. X of the State Constitution, the United States Decennial Census of 2010 is the official census of the state for the purposes of this joint resolution.

(2) The following delineation of senatorial districts employs areas included within official county, voting tabulation district, tract, and block boundary descriptions used by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, in compiling the United States Decennial Census of 2010 in this state. The populations within these census geographic units are the population figures reported in the counts of the United States Decennial Census of 2010 provided to the state in accordance with Pub. L. No. 94-171.

26-00005-15C

20152C\_\_

30 (3) As used in this joint resolution, the term:

31 (a) "Block" describes the smallest geographic unit for  
32 which population was tabulated in the 2010 decennial census.  
33 Blocks are nested within tracts and within voting tabulation  
34 districts. A block is identified by a four-digit integer that is  
35 unique within a tract but is not necessarily unique within a  
36 voting tabulation district.

37 (b) "Tract" describes a relatively permanent statistical  
38 subdivision of a county updated by local participants prior to  
39 the 2010 decennial census. Tracts consist of whole blocks and  
40 are nested within counties. Tracts are identified uniquely  
41 within a county by an up to four-digit integer and may have an  
42 optional two-digit suffix.

43 (c) "Voting tabulation district" describes a subdivision of  
44 a county established in Phase 2 of the 2010 Census Redistricting  
45 Data Program. Voting tabulation districts consist of whole  
46 blocks and are nested within counties. Voting tabulation  
47 districts subdivide counties in ways supervisors of elections  
48 determined are efficient for conducting elections and keeping  
49 communities whole. Voting tabulation districts are identified  
50 uniquely within a county by an up to four-digit integer.

51 Section 2. Senatorial districts.—For the election of  
52 members to the Senate of this state, the state is apportioned  
53 into 40 consecutively numbered, single-member senatorial  
54 districts of contiguous territory, to be designated by such  
55 numbers as follows:

56  
57 Section 3. Territory not specified for inclusion in any  
58 senatorial district.—Any portion of the state which is not

26-00005-15C

20152C\_\_

59 stated in this joint resolution as being included in any  
60 senatorial district described in this joint resolution but which  
61 is entirely surrounded by a district shall be deemed to be  
62 included within the surrounding district. Any portion of the  
63 state which is not included in any senatorial district described  
64 in this joint resolution and which is not entirely surrounded by  
65 a district shall be included within that district contiguous to  
66 the portion that contains the least population per legislator  
67 according to the United States Decennial Census of 2010;  
68 however, if every district contiguous to such portion has an  
69 equal population, such portion shall be included within the  
70 lowest-numbered district that is contiguous to such portion.

71 Section 4. Territory specified for inclusion in one  
72 senatorial district which is noncontiguous.-If any senatorial  
73 district described in this joint resolution is composed of  
74 noncontiguous territory, the noncontiguous portion that has the  
75 least population shall be included in the district that is  
76 contiguous to such portion and that has the least population;  
77 however, if every district contiguous to such portion has an  
78 equal population, such portion shall be included within the  
79 lowest-numbered district that is contiguous to such portion.

80 Section 5. Districts to constitute senatorial districts of  
81 state.-The senatorial districts created by this joint resolution  
82 constitute and form the senatorial districts of the state, and  
83 members of the Legislature shall be elected in and for these  
84 senatorial districts as provided by law.

85 Section 6. If any provision of this joint resolution or the  
86 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held  
87 invalid, or if any senatorial district established in this joint

26-00005-15C

20152C\_\_

88 resolution is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other  
89 provisions or applications of this joint resolution, or any  
90 other districts established in this joint resolution, which can  
91 be given effect without the invalid provision or application,  
92 and to this end the provisions of this joint resolution are  
93 severable.

94 Section 7. This joint resolution applies with respect to  
95 the qualification, nomination, and election of members of the  
96 Senate in the primary and general elections held in 2016 and  
97 thereafter.