



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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Sub. H.B. 319*

129th General Assembly

(As Reported by S. Government Oversight and Reform)

Reps. Huffman, Maag, Amstutz, Anielski, Blair, Blessing, Buchy, Combs, Grossman, Roegner, Slaby, Stautberg, Terhar, Batchelder

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes boundaries for the state's 16 Congressional districts based on the 2010 decennial census of Ohio.
- Specifies that any unassigned territory is included within the district (1) that contains the least population according to the 2010 decennial census of Ohio and (2) that is contiguous to that territory.
- Requires the board of elections of each county, not later than 35 days before the 2012 primary election, to send a notice to each registered elector in that county notifying the elector of (1) the election date, (2) the precinct in which the elector is registered to vote, (3) the Congressional district in which the elector's residential address is located, and (4) the House of Representatives and Senate districts in which the elector's residential address is located.
- Specifies that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the congressional districts take immediate effect, to enable boards of elections to complete their required remapping and reprecincting so that candidates may file in their new districts, boards may verify the petitions, boards may notify electors of their new districts, and elections may be conducted in those districts for the 2012 primary election.
- Makes an appropriation.

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Congressional district boundaries

The bill creates new Congressional district boundaries and in doing so reduces the number of Congressional districts in the state from 18 to 16. The Congressional districts created by the bill contain the following territory:¹

District 1: Warren County. Portions of Hamilton County.

District 2: Adams County, Brown County, Clermont County, Clinton County, and Pike County. Portions of Hamilton County, Ross County, and Scioto County.

District 3: Portions of Franklin County.

District 4: Allen County, Auglaize County, Champaign County, Crawford County, Logan County, Sandusky County, Seneca County, and Shelby County. Portions of Clark County, Erie County, Hancock County, Hardin County, Huron County, Lucas County, Marion County, Mercer County, Ottawa County, Wood County, and Wyandot County.

District 5: Defiance County, Fulton County, Henry County, Paulding County, Putnam County, Van Wert County, and Williams County. Portions of Hancock County, Hardin County, Lucas County, Mercer County, Wood County, and Wyandot County.

District 6: Belmont County, Carroll County, Columbiana County, Gallia County, Guernsey County, Harrison County, Jackson County, Jefferson County, Lawrence County, Meigs County, Monroe County, Noble County, and Washington County. Portions of Athens County, Mahoning County, Muskingum County, Scioto County, and Tuscarawas County.

District 7: Ashland County, Coshocton County, Holmes County, and Knox County. Portions of Erie County, Huron County, Lorain County, Medina County, Richland County, Stark County, and Tuscarawas County.

District 8: Butler County, Darke County, Miami County, and Preble County. Portions of Mercer County and Montgomery County.

District 9: Portions of Cuyahoga County, Erie County, Lorain County, Lucas County, and Ottawa County.

¹ R.C. 3521.01(A).

District 10: Fayette County, Greene County, and Pickaway County. Portions of Fairfield County and Montgomery County.

District 11: Portions of Cuyahoga County and Summit County.

District 12: Delaware County, Licking County, and Morrow County. Portions of Franklin County, Marion County, and Richland County.

District 13: Portions of Mahoning County, Portage County, Stark County, Summit County, and Trumbull County.

District 14: Ashtabula County, Geauga County, and Lake County. Portions of Cuyahoga County, Portage County, Summit County, and Trumbull County.

District 15: Highland County, Hocking County, Madison County, Morgan County, Perry County, Union County, and Vinton County. Portions of Athens County, Clark County, Fairfield County, Franklin County, Muskingum County, and Ross County.

District 16: Wayne County. Portions of Cuyahoga County, Medina County, Portage County, Stark County, and Summit County.

Unassigned territory

Any county or part of a county that has not been assigned to one of the districts described in the bill is included (1) within the district that contains the least population according to the 2010 decennial census and (2) that is contiguous to that county or part of that county.²

Definitions and incorporation by reference

As used in the bill, "county," "census tract," "census block group," and "census block" have the same meanings and describe the same geographical boundaries as used by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census in reporting the 2010 decennial census of Ohio. The bill incorporates by reference into the Revised Code the official report of that census and all official documents relating to that report.³

² R.C. 3521.01(B).

³ R.C. 3521.01(C).



Notification of election and district changes

Not later than 35 days before the day of the March 6, 2012, primary election, the bill requires each board of elections to mail a notice to each elector registered to vote in the applicable county notifying the elector of all of the following:⁴

- (1) The date of the 2012 primary election;
- (2) The precinct in which the elector is registered to vote;
- (3) The Congressional district in which the elector's residential address is located;
- (4) The House of Representatives and Senate districts in which the elector's residential address is located.

Declaration of intent

The bill specifies that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Congressional districts established in the bill take immediate effect, to enable the boards of elections to complete their required remapping and reprecincting of this state so that candidates may file their candidacy petitions in the new districts, the boards may properly verify those petitions, the boards may notify electors of their new districts and, if applicable, voting locations, and elections may be conducted in those districts for the 2012 primary election.⁵

COMMENT

Due to technological limitations, the Legislative Service Commission is not able to independently verify district population counts, total plan deviation, and whether there is any unassigned population.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	09-13-11
Reported, H. State Government and Elections	09-15-11
Passed House (56-36)	09-15-11
Reported, S. Government Oversight and Reform	--

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⁴ Section 3 of the bill.

⁵ Section 6 of the bill.

