HLS 111ES-399 ORIGINAL

First Extraordinary Session, 2011

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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY REPRESENTATIVES EDWARDS, BOBBY BADON, BALDONE, GALLOT, GISCLAIR, HONORE, ROSALIND JONES, LEBAS, LEGER, GARY SMITH, PATRICIA SMITH, AND THIBAUT

REAPPORTIONMENT/CONGRESS: Proclaims the importance of redistricting the state's congressional districts during the 2011 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To proclaim the importance of the Louisiana Legislature enacting a congressional
3	redistricting plan during the 2011 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana
4	Legislature.
5	WHEREAS, by virtue of the authority vested in the Louisiana Legislature by Article
6	III, Section 2(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana and by R.S. 24:11, and upon receipt of a
7	written petition of a majority of the elected members of each house, the presiding officers
8	called and convened the legislature into a historic extraordinary session; and
9	WHEREAS, the power to legislate at such session was limited, under penalty of
10	nullity, to eight very specific and enumerated objects; and
11	WHEREAS, Item No. 3 states "To legislate relative to the redistricting of the
12	Congressional districts of Louisiana; and to provide relative to the effectiveness of such
13	districts"; and
14	WHEREAS, the duration of the First Extraordinary Session of 2011 was slated for
15	a period of twenty-five calendar days, sufficient time within which to enact laws on the
16	enumerated objects; and
17	WHEREAS, even prior to the start of this extraordinary session, the appropriate
18	standing committees of the House and Senate held numerous hearings throughout the state

1 seeking input of Louisiana citizens on, inter alia, the drawing of new congressional districts; 2 and 3 WHEREAS, the issues have been well vetted through hundreds of hours of direct 4 testimony, deliberation, and debate around the state and during this special session; and 5 WHEREAS, no fewer than fifteen bills have been introduced to redistrict congress 6 along various district lines and even more amendments have been offered providing the 7 legislature with many variations for consideration; and 8 WHEREAS, undoubtedly, congressional redistricting is a difficult task and the loss 9 of one congressional district has substantially compounded the level of difficulty; and 10 WHEREAS, the reduction of the number of congressional districts from seven to six 11 has created regional tensions as geographical areas desire to maintain communities of 12 interest within single districts; and 13 WHEREAS, whether congressional redistricting is done during this special session 14 or at subsequent sessions, none of the regional tensions will have abated and any delay will 15 result in additional cost; and 16 WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana deserve to know, well in advance of the 17 November 2012 elections, in which district they reside; and 18 WHEREAS, timely drawn districts will provide the greatest opportunity for the 19 largest number of qualified people to announce their candidacy within a respective district; 20 and 21 WHEREAS, despite a majority of the congressional incumbents sending a letter to 22 the governor urging a delay in congressional redistricting, it is the duty of the legislature to 23 draw new district lines and, furthermore, the legislature is not concerned with incumbent 24 protection but rather the best interest of the people of the state. 25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 26 proclaim the importance of the Louisiana Legislature enacting a congressional redistricting 27 plan during the 2011 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

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## **DIGEST**

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Edwards HCR No. 18

Proclaims the importance of redistricting the state's congressional districts during the 2011 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature.