

HCS HB 193 -- CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Diehl

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Standing Committee on Redistricting by a vote of 10 to 1.

This substitute establishes eight districts for the election of representatives to the United States Congress beginning with the 113th Congress. The districts are described by census geography, voting districts, and census blocks in accordance with the 2010 census. Districts currently in statute will remain in effect for any election for a vacancy in the 112th Congress.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is a fair way to make the numerous adjustments that are required because of the loss of a Congressional district. Every district's population increased significantly. The proposed map is contiguous and compact with zero deviation and splits only eight counties into different Congressional districts.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Diehl.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that central Missouri does not have the same interests as the St. Louis area and should be in its own district. St. Louis is still a premier city, and districts should be drawn to respect its importance and influence. The proposed fifth district should not include extremely rural areas such as the counties of Saline, Ray, and Lafayette because this district is almost entirely urban.

Testifying against the bill were Representative Aull; Marc Ellinger, Presiding Commissioner of Cole County; and Martin Baker.