

**House State Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee
October 13, 2021**

Transcript of video recording available at:
<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/10-13-21-house-state-legislative-redistricting-subcommittee/>

EXHIBIT

J62

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 Cord Byrd: The State Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee will come to order. DJ,
2 please call the roll.

3 DJ: Chair Byrd.

4 Cord Byrd: Here.

5 DJ: Vice-Chair Robinson.

6 William Robinson: Here.

7 DJ: Ranking Member Daley.

8 Dan Daley: Here.

9 DJ: Representatives Arrington.

10 Kristen Arrington: Here.

11 DJ: Barnaby has been excused. Bell. Bell. Brannan.

12 Chuck Brannan: Here.

13 DJ: Chambliss.

14 Kevin Chambliss: Here.

15 DJ: Garrison.

16 Sam Garrison: Here.

17 DJ: Hart. Hart?

18 Dianne Hart: Here.

19 DJ: Hawkins.

20 Fred Hawkins: Here.

21 DJ: Maney.

22 Thomas Maney: Here.

23 DJ: McClain.

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 Stan McClain: Here.

2 DJ: Melo.

3 Lauren Melo: Here.

4 DJ: Mooney.

5 Jim Mooney: Here.

6 DJ: Persons-Mulicka.

7 Jenna Persons-Mulicka: Here.

8 DJ: Salzman. Salzman? Snyder.

9 John Snyder: Here.

10 DJ: Tant.

11 Allison Tant: Here.

12 DJ: Valdes.

13 Susan Valdes: Present.

14 DJ: Woodson.

15 Marie Woodson: Here.

16 DJ: A quorum is present, Mr. Chair.

17 Cord Byrd: Thank you, DJ. Good afternoon members. A few reminders before we begin.

18 If any members of the public wish to speak before the committee please fill out a form and turn it
19 in to the sergeant's staff and also silence all electronic devices. Also, as a reminder for our
20 members and presenters please ensure that you turn your microphone on when you are speaking
21 and off when you are finished.

22 Members, with this being our second committee meeting, I want to remind you again that
23 this is a noteworthy responsibility for our committee to undertake a thorough educational effort

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 to ensure that everyone has the understanding they need to be able to propose, analyze, and most
2 importantly, vote on legally compliant boundaries. Today, we will review some new updates that
3 have been rolled out on our website for accessibility and public input, as well as discuss some of
4 our map drawing application's advanced functionality, and how those tools can assist us in
5 aligning with our constitutional standards for map drawing.

6 Before we dive into the substance of our meeting, I want to take a moment to address an
7 opinion piece that was published last week. Chairman Leek also addressed this yesterday in the
8 full redistricting committee. While this piece is truly just a University of Florida professor's
9 opinion, it alleges gross inaccuracies and attempts to cast a dark shadow on the work that this
10 committee is undertaking. I did not want any of our members or constituents to wonder whether
11 this process is being conducted above board as both the Speaker, Chairman Leek, and myself
12 have been very clear from the beginning that this process will follow all laws and the Florida
13 Constitution.

14 The first inaccuracy this opinion piece alleges is that we are hiding elections data from
15 public view. This could not be further from the truth. As you will see today, the election data is
16 fully accessible within our map drawing application [audio cuts out 00:02:31] is being used to
17 conduct a functional analysis. These functional analyses ensure that racial and language minority
18 groups' ability to elect a candidate of their choice is not diminished, which is required by the
19 Florida Constitution. The article also falsely states that we are shielding data from public records
20 requests. The contract that is referenced is written so that the Legislature maintains the
21 responsibility of responding to and producing public records, not any vendor or contractor. The
22 article also falsely insinuates that the Legislature is using geocoding services. There are no
23 geocoding services anywhere within our application. That technology is specifically not being

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 used in order to protect against favoring or disfavoring an incumbent, a constitutional standard
2 we must follow. Members, as we will all come to experience, there are outside entities that will
3 try to input their own political desires into our process and to harm the integrity of our process,
4 and we will not tolerate it.

5 First on the agenda, we are going to look at some new updates to our website as well as
6 some of Esri's advanced functionality that will help us align with our constitutional standards.
7 As we have been doing, our goal is to continue educating this committee about the standards that
8 will produce legally compliant maps. With that being said, first up let's talk about
9 floridaredistricting.gov. Members, like we promised during our first committee meeting as we go
10 through this process and new functionality becomes available, we are going to roll it out publicly
11 as soon as possible. Today we have some new items on our website that we'd like to share. I'm
12 going to turn it over to Leda to explain it to you.

13 Leda Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Let me get floridaredistricting.gov pulled up here.
14 The first item I'd like to be able to show the committee is actually a new page that we debuted on
15 the website called Submitted Plans, found up here on the top. This is where all of the publicly
16 submitted plans will be posted for everyone to view. I want to walk through a couple
17 components of this website that you'll be able to see. Here on the top you see three buttons.
18 These are our currently enacted benchmark maps. You have the House plan, the Senate plan, and
19 the congressional map as well. If you click on these buttons it will take you to a page where
20 you're able to see all of the detail surrounding those maps, as well as some archive files here in
21 the bottom left hand corner that you can download, re-upload into your own map drawing profile
22 if you'd like to. Or just view the reports to see the analysis behind it.

23 Going back to the main Submitted Plans page, if I continue to scroll down, this top

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 section that you see here is focused around being able to search the plans. There's about eight
2 publicly submitted plans on the website currently. Obviously, we expect more to come. We've
3 tried to be able to allow searchability functions by several different categories. The first one here
4 you're able to select the plan type, if you're looking specifically for Senate maps, House maps,
5 or congressional maps as well as who submitted the maps. There's a selection here for the courts,
6 obviously members of the Senate, members of the public, and then members of the House as
7 well. If you're looking for a specific plan name or a specific submission, these are open text
8 fields by which you can also search as well as if a map is contiguous or complete. This drop-
9 down allows you to do some additional search functions as well.

10 Scrolling down here, you can see this is where all the individual plans are listed. This first
11 view kind of gives you a synopsis of those plans. If you click on it, it brings you to a similar page
12 that we saw with the benchmark plans. One additional item I'd like to point out is this feature
13 right here called the web map. Downloading some of these files and re-uploading it into your
14 map drawing profile, we acknowledge that takes several steps. We wanted people to be able to
15 look at maps in a much more succinct way. We've added this web map functionality. If you click
16 on the web map, it pulls up an image of the individual's plan that was submitted and as you can
17 see, you scroll into it. While you're not allowed to draw from this view, you are able to get a
18 quick view if you want to think about it that way. Additionally, if you click on a district, it will
19 drop down some of the high-level statistics that are associated with that map as well. That
20 functionality will be for any plans that are submitted on this website. Once we get to the point in
21 the process where members are filing, whether it's bills or amendments, those going through the
22 committee process will also appear on this page. Any map will be accessible by anyone who is
23 on the website.

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 The next page I'd like to navigate to is this Get Involved page. We saw this page during
2 our last committee meeting, but we've added some additional functionality to it. Part of that was
3 in feedback we received. Originally, we had as part of the map submission form, a form where
4 people could provide comments or details about maps whether they were submitting them or had
5 other comments they'd like to provide. What we've done here is added this new button that says
6 Provide Public Input here. Whenever I click on it, this is an actual embedded form that you can
7 fill out directly on the website. It's a little less hassle than having to deal with downloading and
8 filling out a PDF document. As you see, I can scroll down, there's an open text box here where
9 anyone can provide that input. It's automatically sent to the committee and will be in turn made
10 publicly available as well.

11 Going back to the Get Involved tab, I'd like to scroll down actually to the bottom of the
12 page as well. Also, dealing with whenever an individual goes to submit a map, there's the form
13 that goes along with it. We received feedback that being able to provide a link to the Adobe
14 Reader, the free version easily downloadable. We've placed that here at the bottom of the
15 website for individuals who may not have that otherwise. We want to make sure they have
16 access to it. Along those lines, if I scroll back up, here we've also added a step-by-step guide on
17 how to use the Adobe Reader as well as how to add the digital signature to the PDF. So people
18 who may not have access to a printer or a scanner, they're able to do that all embedded within
19 their computer. If they have questions, they can use this document here as well as, of course,
20 contacting the committee for assistance. The other item I'd like to mention and it's not on the
21 website yet, but we will be rolling it out soon. As far as the PDF documents that are on our
22 website, we're working with a translation service to be able to provide those in some additional
23 language to help with the accessibility for some of the items that don't naturally translate as part

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 of the embedded text of the website. That's something that we're in process with as a joint
2 project we're undertaking with the Senate. As soon as that is completed, those translated PDFs
3 will also be available on our website. Mr. Chair that concludes my presentation. Thank you.

4 Cord Byrd: Thank you, Leda. The next topic I'd like to discuss today is focused on some
5 of our map drawing application's advanced drawing tools, and how they can help us analyze the
6 constitutional standards by which we must make our maps compliant. For those of you who were
7 able to join Legislator University, consider this your 201 course. For those who were not able to
8 join, I encourage you to watch the posted recording. You can find it on MyFloridaHouse.gov as
9 well as on FloridaRedistricting.gov. What I'd like to do now is walk through the next several
10 slides so we can discuss the concepts and the related map drawing tools. Then I will hand the
11 mic back over to Leda to walk us through an actual demonstration of some of the tools.

12 The first constitutional standards. The Florida Supreme Court has made it clear that
13 Florida's constitutional standards for redistricting have two distinct tiers. In Tier One, a whole
14 map or an individual district shall not be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political
15 party or incumbent. Districts shall protect racial language minority groups' ability to elect
16 candidates of their [audio cuts out 00:10:18]. District shall consist of contiguous territory. [Audio
17 cuts in and out 00:10:22-00:10:27] be compact and where feasible, follow existing geographical
18 and political boundaries. It's important to remember Tier One standards take priority over Tier
19 Two standards in case of conflict. However, within each tier, the standards are equally weighted
20 amongst one another. As we dive in, another important concept to keep in mind is that there is no
21 single correct map. There is no such thing as the best map. As seen in our standards, all decisions
22 must be weighed among one another with the goal of drawing a legally compliant map.

23 We're going to start with Tier Two standards. First up, let's talk about where feasible

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 using existing political and geographical boundaries. From the Florida Supreme Court ruling in
2 2012, they delineated that political boundaries primarily encompass county and municipal
3 boundaries, which are our first two bullets here. The court then went on to state the geographical
4 boundaries are easily ascertainable and commonly understood, such as rivers, railways,
5 interstates, and state roads. In the map drawing application, there are two tools that we will walk
6 through. They coincide with political and geographical boundaries, the Reference Layers tool,
7 and the Boundary Analysis Report.

8 Next up is compactness. In Florida, compactness has been defined by the courts as
9 geographical compactness in relation to the shape of a district. There is no single official or best
10 compactness text the courts rely on when reviewing redistricting plans. The compactness
11 measures shown on the screen here are the three scores the Florida Supreme Court supported
12 during the 2012 redistricting cycle. The Reock, Convex Hull, and Polsby-Popper. Each test is
13 unique and places priority on a certain characteristic of a district. Therefore, it is best to view
14 them in tandem and in context of your district, not in isolation. Let's explore these three scores
15 further.

16 A Reock score takes the area of a district and finds the smallest minimum bounding circle
17 that fits around the district. Like all three of these scores, Reock is rated on a scale of zero to one,
18 with values falling closer to one indicating a more compacted district. Districts that are circular
19 in shape earn a higher Reock score. A Convex Hull score applies a similar principle but instead
20 of a circle, it uses a polygon. This measure accounts for indentations in districts and oftentimes a
21 square or rectangular district will earn a higher Convex Hull score. The Polsby-Popper score is a
22 ratio of the area of the district to the area of a circle whose circumference is equal to the
23 perimeter of the district. Bet you didn't expect to do some geometry today in this committee.

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 This score counts for jagged edges of the district. The more jagged edges that a district has, the
2 larger the circle, resulting in a lower score.

3 There's also another test, which is commonly referred to as the eyeball test. Oftentimes, it
4 is said that the districts that look bizarre or oddly shaped may be evidence of partisan or racial
5 gerrymanders. While that may be true in some situations, I would encourage the committee to
6 also remember the state in which we live and the geography to which we are assigning districts.
7 Florida is oddly shaped to begin with. We are a peninsula surrounded by water on three sides of
8 which we cannot move. Our counties are often uniquely shaped and may have flags that come
9 off one side of the county. In addition to which very few of them are nice, even squares, like
10 some counties you find in western states. Compactness scores are used for evaluation within
11 context of that district and as points of reference. The compactness test function in the map
12 drawing application calculates these scores for us for each district.

13 The Florida Constitution mandates that districts shall be as nearly equal in population as
14 practicable. In our map drawing application, there are two tools to help you view population
15 figures at various levels of geography. The Identify tool allows you to select units of geography
16 and see how much population is contained within that piece of geography. The Themes tool,
17 which enables you to apply a color-coded theme across the entire map, to which you can have
18 color-coded pieces of geography that indicate population levels in a given area.

19 Now let's move on to the Tier One standards. When defining district contiguity, the
20 Florida Supreme Court has said a district lacks contiguity when a part is isolated from the rest of
21 the territory of another district, or when the lands mutually touch only at a common corner or
22 right angle. In our map drawing application, our Check Integrity functionality will evaluate the
23 districts you've created in your map and identify if any are not contiguous.

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 The last two constitutional standards allow me to speak to a new concept I'd like to
2 introduce called a functional analysis. Last decade, the courts said a functional analysis can be
3 conducted to ensure the standards – a standard is met which states we must not deny or diminish
4 a racial language minority groups' ability to elect a candidate of their choice. This functional
5 analysis is conducted by analyzing registered voters, voter turnout, and election results for a
6 given district. Let me be clear: the elections data is not used on the front end to draw districts but
7 as an analysis tool on the back end to ensure that a district drawn based on population protects
8 the racial language minority as required to do so. Using elections data on the front end of the
9 map drawing process could inherently violate the other Tier One standard listed here that
10 prohibits us from favoring or disfavoring a political party or incumbent. This functional analysis
11 data is being made available as part of the Reports functionality of our map drawing application.
12 With that, I'd like to ask Leda to walk through these examples in the actual map drawing
13 application.

14 Leda Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Here you see our map drawing application. The map
15 that I have pulled up is our benchmark House district map. As the Chair alluded, there's a lot of
16 functionality within the software we're not going to cover today. If you weren't able to view the
17 Legislature University, I highly encourage you to go back and take a look at that, where we go
18 through a lot of the basic functionality of the software. What I have pulled up here is our current
19 House map with 120 districts and the first item that I'd like to walk through the chair reference is
20 our reference layers. If you see over here on the left hand column, there's a little arrow and when
21 you click it, a content panel pops up. Here, the fourth one down is labeled reference layers. Let
22 me go through and uncheck these and then I'm going to zoom into the map and be able to
23 demonstrate these reference layers for you so you can see how they are essentially filters that are

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 applied over the map. I'm also going to deselect the filled districts lines so that it's a little bit of a
2 cleaner canvas to look at. What the reference layers allow us to do is by selecting one, as you can
3 see here, this is our current Senate district lines. As I zoom in here, they show up in a blue color.
4 If I were to select our current House district lines, you can see here they show up in a green
5 color. This third one here as I select our current congressional district lines, and I'll move the
6 map slightly so you can see it better; they show up as a red district line. They're good points of
7 reference as your drawing. This next one, which might be my personal favorite, are our primary
8 and secondary roads. The Supreme Court has said that major roads and state roads are a great use
9 of boundaries. We've embedded it as you can see here I'll zoom out. All across the state, as
10 you're creating districts, if you choose to use roads as boundary lines for districts; you have the
11 ability to see very obviously, where they are as indicated by these bright red lines. The next one
12 I'll turn on is our railroads, and I'm actually going to switch the base map for this to be able to
13 show the coloration a little bit better. As I select the railroad functionality, you can see that's
14 indicated here by these orange lines that have tiny hash marks in them. You can see they're
15 applied all across the state.

16 The next slide on here is our cities reference layer. As I select cities, and I'll zoom out so
17 you can get a little bit more of the impact of it, you see these different colored areas with hash
18 marks across them. These are all of the legally defined city boundaries in the state of Florida. If I
19 zoom in here to the Tallahassee area, which is this pink district, you can see it's definitively
20 defined and as you go to draw, being able to use the tool to fill in exact city boundaries helps
21 comply with our constitutional standards. I'll actually demonstrate that here in a second. The
22 item before I move on, just to show our county boundaries, which as you select here are
23 highlighted with this bright blue color.

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 This last one here that says hydro, that shows all of the water across the state, anything
2 over ten acres. It also shows the coastline. On the east coast of Florida, it goes out to three miles
3 of coastline as defined by the census bureau. On the west coast of Florida, it goes out to nine
4 miles. I'm not going to load it here for demonstration purposes because it does take a second to
5 load, but that is what that last item is that you can select, again, as to use as a reference when
6 drawing.

7 By leaving the cities selected here, the next tool I'd like to use is actually the Identify
8 tool. Here in the same content window, if you click the identify area down here on the bottom
9 right, and for this demonstration, I'm going to select from a place. If you click this blue button as
10 I hover over it, it says identify a feature and your cursor turns into this little blue circle with an
11 "I" in the middle. If you select a city or it would work for counties as well, it'll highlight that
12 area and you can see here, I have selected the city of Tallahassee. What pops up in this content
13 pane's window are all the statistics associated with that city. If I scroll down to the bottom, it
14 gives you the total population as well. So, we can tell that the city of Tallahassee as defined by
15 the Census Bureau has 196,169 people. Now, if you are in the process of drawing your map and
16 you say I really want to add the city of Tallahassee, let's say, to District 1, you can also do that
17 from, in conjunction with this window. If I pull up my district statistics window and select
18 District 1, you can go right here and click the assign to button. We'll give it just a second to load.
19 The program will automatically calculate the boundaries of the city of Tallahassee and assign it
20 to District 1. I will turn on back the fill district colors so you can see that. Previously,
21 Tallahassee would have been indicated split between this brown district here and this light green
22 district and as you can see, it's now colored in with the darker green color and it has been
23 assigned to District 1.

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 The next item I would like to demonstrate is in the Review tab. As we navigate here, this
2 item on the far left says compactness test. As the Chair walked through, there's three different
3 compactness tests that you can look at to view a district. As you click that, it pops up a window
4 that will actually precalculate the scores for each district. You see here the Reock, your Convex
5 Hull, and your Polsby-Popper. This pop-up window is really nice because as you're drawing and
6 going back and forth with districts, it allows you a quick way to check it. The other way that you
7 can do it is in the Reports functionality where it allows you to download a report for your records
8 or for additional comparison. So there's two ways you can view compactness within the
9 software.

10 The next item, also found here within the Review tab is this check integrity function.
11 Whenever you select this, the system will process through a series of checks, some of which will
12 talk to us about whether or not a district is contiguous. That's actually this last item here, which
13 is called connectivity check. As you can see, it's coming up with a red X and so as I go what
14 districts are not contiguous, this is dealing with when I went back and assigned Tallahassee to
15 District 1. By doing so, it split geography between Districts 8 and then within District 7, which
16 means since they are no longer contiguous, the system flagged that. By being able to go back, I
17 go back in and reassign or adjust District 1, I'd be able to refresh this report and the goal is at the
18 end of the day, all districts will be contiguous.

19 Next item I'd like to show you is also within this Reports dropdown functionality. We'll
20 click on the VAP Summary Report. As the Chair mentioned, we have elections-related data that
21 lives within the system that allows you to conduct functional analyses on districts that you have
22 drawn. Those are found within these last three tabs here. As you drop them down, you can see all
23 of the different categories. This first one indicates registered voters that are available throughout

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 the decade. Our software includes registered voters, data for voter turnout, and then election
2 results for all statewide elections from 2012 through 2020. That's general elections and primary
3 elections. Depending on what you're analyzing or what you're looking to do, you can select the
4 categories as needed and add them to your report here on the right and then run your report.

5 Another item I'd like to point out also in the Reports tools called the Boundary Analysis.
6 It's found here within the Metes and Bounds category and it's this last selection here. Now this
7 report does take a second to run so we've prepopulated one for demonstration purposes. This is
8 how it appears. It is an HTML report that pops up in your window. It goes district by district as
9 you can see here on the left and identifies to what percentage of that district follows these
10 categories. These will be familiar because the Chair read through them earlier as existing
11 geographical and political boundaries: city boundaries, county boundaries, roads, water, rail, and
12 then if there's a portion of the district that doesn't follow any, it falls into this last category.
13 Similar to compactness tests, I'd encourage you with the Boundary Analysis Report is there's no
14 golden threshold of which if you meet this, your district's automatically good. It's all used in
15 conjunction when analyzing what a district is made up of and how it looks amongst other
16 districts. For instance, District 7, which is a district here in the Panhandle, you can see it follows
17 a lot of county boundaries, which the district does. It also follows 52% of water boundaries,
18 which makes sense because it's a coastal county. However, there are districts that are not on the
19 water; therefore, they would score lower in that category, and that's okay. So again, that
20 boundary analysis report is found within the Reports drop-down feature.

21 The last item I would like to demonstrate is the themes. For this one, I'm going to zoom
22 out and I'm also going to turn off district fills one last time. For the themes, this allows you to
23 apply basically color-coding to your map to help draw out differences within regions. For this

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 first selection, I'm going to do it based on total population. As I click update, you can see the
2 map is colored according to total population. Now you can see the scale here, which is this red to
3 green continuum. As the map becomes more green, that means your area is more populated.
4 Let's scroll down to South Florida. You can see the distinction between some of the Heartland
5 area compared to the Southeast Florida. It goes from the red to green categories. Within the
6 themes functionality, there's additional drop-down options that you can select that allow you to
7 do different thematic maps. This is the one that we'll use for demonstration purposes today. With
8 that, Mr. Chair, that concludes my presentation. Thank you.

9 Cord Byrd: Thank you, Leda. Members, we are now in questions. Are there any questions
10 on the presentation today? Does anyone have any questions? Alright. I have a committee full of
11 – Ranking Member you have a question?

12 Dan Daley: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I do.

13 Cord Byrd: Yes.

14 Dan Daley: Just a quick question. It actually goes back to the first portion of the
15 presentation. Will there be any, I guess, staff-level, I know we can go on to the website and see
16 the eight maps that have currently been submitted by the public. I'm assuming that number will
17 grow quite significantly. Will there be any actual review by the committee staff of those maps?
18 I'll leave it there.

19 Cord Byrd: Thank you for the question. What we're going to do is if any member, if
20 there's any maps that are submitted, a member of the committee can bring it to the staff for
21 individual review. We're going to let it be member-driven. If you find a map that you are
22 interested in, bring it to staff and we'll be more than happy to review it.

23 Dan Daley: Alright. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 Cord Byrd: Anyone else? Alright. We are now going to move –

2 Dan Daley: I don't have a question. I wanted to make some remarks toward the end of the
3 meeting.

4 Cord Byrd: Okay. Yeah. We'll save remarks for the end. Very good. Alright. Now we're
5 going to go to public comment. We have any? No? No comment cards? Alright. Nobody for the
6 public wishes to make any comment, then we will have Ranking Member, if you have a
7 comment, you can give that to us now.

8 Dan Daley: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'll be brief. First and foremost, thank you for starting off
9 the meeting in addressing what had been brought to light in the Tampa Bay Times opinion piece.
10 I did also happen to see the Miami Herald article that was generated as a result of it where the
11 House provided pushed back on some of the comments made in that op-ed, and so I appreciate
12 that. I know in watching the full committee's meeting yesterday, I know Chair Leek is looking
13 into a couple things that Ranking Member Geller had raised. I appreciate that. I appreciate your
14 openness and willingness to do that. There were a couple things that I just wanted to touch on
15 and some of them is me reiterating. Again, this meeting is meeting at the same time as the
16 congressional committee, which I understand, it's scheduling. It may already be baked in, but I
17 really think it's something we should look at. While our presentation today, if I had to look, I'm
18 sure matches almost exactly what that congressional committee went over today, as we move
19 along in this process, we're going to cover different things. We're going to look at different
20 things because obviously our maps are different. Our job is different than that other committee.
21 My concern is for members of the public who want to be able to participate in both of those
22 meetings at the same time. It really does make it difficult. I think if you look back ten years ago,
23 we did the statewide tour, the Legislature sat in different parts of the state to really solicit public

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 input. Our solution to public input this go around thus far has been this website and giving folks
2 the opportunity to submit maps. That's part of why I asked are we going to actually be looking at
3 the maps. I do appreciate your answer on that part, Mr. Chair. Certainly, I'll just bring all the
4 maps then. I'm only kidding. I think my concern, again, just goes back to public access and
5 engagement. If there is an opportunity, I would love for the Chair and the committee and Chair
6 Leek and the Speaker to consider the opportunity for virtual meetings. If we're not going to go
7 around the state because of time or cost or COVID or whatever the case may be, I think the last
8 18 months has shown us that as a country and as a state, most of us have gotten pretty
9 comfortable on Zoom or Teams meetings or anything like that. I think my ask would be, can we
10 consider some form of virtual meeting to provide actual public access from other parts of the
11 state for folks who can't schlepp all the way up to Tallahassee? I would actually add to that, I
12 can't imagine it would be very difficult to find one location, one municipally owned building in
13 every part of the state where someone who doesn't have access to the internet for whatever
14 reason, could go and go at an allocated time. We can go on and have a Zoom and have actual
15 public input from across the state that gives us the opportunity to take in that input and
16 engagement without having to do the physical tour that we did ten years ago. A lot of my
17 comments today, Mr. Chair, and thank you for your indulgence, relate on public access and
18 engagement. I know you guys have been talking about it. I know we'll continue to talk about it
19 and I really appreciate that. Two other things, or one other thing I just want to touch on is my
20 understanding is ten years ago that submitting maps, members submitting maps did not count as
21 a bill slot for a member. In this cycle, this go around they are. I would ask if we could possibly
22 revisit that. I know that the answer from the big committee was well you have the opportunity to
23 do amendments and things like that. If we didn't count it against your bill slots last time around,

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Oct. 13, 2021

1 why has that change occurred? Really not much interesting probably to the general public, but
2 for us as a body, particularly where we are in the process, most of us have probably lined up
3 most of our bill slots for our policy initiatives for this year. Repealers don't count against bill
4 slots, these didn't count against bill slots last time around. If we could look at that again, I'd
5 appreciate it as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 Cord Byrd: Thank you, Ranking Member, and obviously we'll pass along the concerns
7 you've raised to Chairman Leek, and Ranking Member Geller on the full committee raised many
8 of those same concerns. We'll be certain to pass those on. If above my paygrade, we'll help
9 answer those questions for all of us. Alright members, I know this is a lot of information to take
10 in and as I've said before, and I'll say it again, redistricting is not an easy task. Understanding
11 the foundational concepts that underlie the maps that we will be voting on is a critical initial step.
12 I appreciate the seriousness and dedication which each of you has brought to this committee.
13 With that, that concludes our committee agenda for today. Representative Maney moves we rise.
14 Unless there's objection, upon the motion of Representative Maney, the meeting is adjourned.



Certificate of Transcription

Transcription of “**10-13-21-house-state-legislative-redistricting-subcommittee**”

We, Vanan Online Services, Inc. a professional transcription company, hereby certify that the above-mentioned document(s) has/have been transcribed by our qualified and experienced transcriber(s) is/are accurate and true transcription of the original document(s).

This is to certify the correctness of the transcription only. Our transcriber is in no way related, by immediate family ties or marriage, to any parties related to the materials transcript.

A copy of the transcription is attached to this certification.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Danny Negley'.

Danny Negley, Production Manager.



Date: 12th November 2024

Vanan Online Services, Inc.
EIN 81-3795675
ATA Member #266532
ISO 9001:2015

Vanan Online Services, Inc.
10711 Spotsylvania Ave., Suite A
Fredericksburg VA 22408
Office: (888) 535-5668
Email: support@vananservices.com
Website: www.vananservices.com