

EXHIBIT H

GEORGIA HOUSE FLOOR
Hearing - House Floor on 12/01/2023

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10 GEORGIA HOUSE FLOOR

11 December 1, 2023

12 Video Segment: 2:09:15 to 3:13:51

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1 (Beginning of Video Recording.)

2 SPEAKER JON BURNS: We will move on
3 with the rules calendar. Mr. Clerk, will you
4 read the caption to 1EX?

5 MR. CLERK: House Bill 1EX by
6 representative leader of the 123rd to be
7 entitled an Act to provide for the composition
8 number of state House districts, to provide
9 for a short title, and provide for the
10 contingent nature of this act and the
11 circumstances under which it shall or shall
12 not apply according to the enforceability of
13 prior provisions under federal law. This bill
14 has been referred to the Committee on
15 Redistricting and Reapportionment. That
16 committee recommends that this bill do pass.

17 SPEAKER JON BURNS: Before I
18 recommend -- recognize the chairman, I will
19 ensure that this House is aware that the Rules
20 Committee this morning, pursuant to House Rule
21 33.3. Dick said, passed. Is that correct,
22 Mr. Chairman, that that we would limit debate
23 on this proposition to two hours' time to be
24 allocated at discretion of the speaker? And
25 that will be one hour for those in favor of

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1 and one hour for those that are opposed. So
2 that's what we'll -- how the process will
3 flow. So at this time we will recognize the
4 chairman, Chairman Leverett, to present the
5 bill.

6 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you, Mr.
7 Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen of the House.
8 Good morning. I present to you for your
9 consideration, House Bill 1EX, which, if
10 passed, will adopt a new set of districts for
11 the Georgia House. And we've put that up on
12 the screens there for you all to see the
13 proposed map that would be enacted by that, by
14 that bill.

15 First, a little history to set this in
16 context. On October 26th, 2023, Judge Stephen
17 Jones, judge of the United States District
18 Court for the Northern District of Georgia,
19 entered an opinion and memorandum of decision
20 in which he ruled that the House district maps
21 we approved in 2021 violate Section 2 of the
22 Voting Rights Act.

23 As a result, he ordered that new maps
24 must be drawn and instead of drawing them
25 himself, which he could have done without

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1 allowing us any input, he kindly allowed us to
2 remedy the violation by drawing new maps
3 ourselves.

4 Judge Jones also thoughtfully gave us
5 specific guidance, and how we can comply with
6 his order to clarify the manner in which we
7 can remedy the violation ourselves. Judge
8 Jones wrote that, and I am quoting from the
9 opinion on page 509. The remedy involves two
10 additional majority Black House districts in
11 South metro Atlanta, one additional majority
12 Black House district in West metro Atlanta,
13 and two additional majority Black house
14 districts in and around Macon-Bibb.

15 So as we as a state hope to better
16 Alabama in a certain sporting contest this
17 weekend, we will not follow the example of
18 their legislature and the lack of seriousness
19 and respect we accord a thorough and detailed
20 decision of a federal judge, whom I think all
21 of us respect and admire very much, and I know
22 I do.

23 We will comply. The bill you have
24 before you will adopt a map that does just
25 that. It fully complies with Judge Jones's

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1 order. As Judge Jones instructed, this map
2 enacts five new majority Black districts. In
3 South Metro, it creates House District 74 and
4 117. Let's move to the second map in the
5 packet. If you'll zoom in a little more for
6 me, that's good. So 70. If you'll move to
7 the south a little. Thank you.

8 So 74 is sort of the light green. 1 in
9 1, 17 is the brown one. And about the hold
10 right there and about the center of the
11 screen. In West Metro, it creates House
12 District 64. If you'll move down just a
13 little bit other way. I'm sorry. You can see
14 64 is over there in Douglas County and it's
15 sort of in the taupe color as well. And then
16 in Macon-Bibb, I'm asking you to shuffle
17 around one more time down towards Macon area.
18 It creates House District 145 and House
19 District 149. All of these have majority
20 Black age population, voting age populations.

21 Judge Jones ordered five new majority
22 Black districts, and this plan creates and
23 establishes five new majority Black districts,
24 and it decreases the number of majority White
25 districts by five. As you know, we cannot

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1 have 185 house districts. We are limited to
2 180.

3 So to make up for that, we make that
4 adjustment. It does not purport to tell Judge
5 Jones that we know better than he does, and
6 that we've done something different, but
7 better that he should accept his equivalent
8 without explaining how it's equivalent. This
9 plan doesn't do that. Instead, it follows his
10 order.

11 This is the only plan presented to the
12 redistricting committee that complies with
13 Judge Jones's order. Now, as you might
14 expect, creating five new districts was very
15 disruptive to our existing districts. There
16 are significant ripple effects, especially
17 when you create five districts at one time.

18 Ripple effects result primarily from
19 constitutional and legal requirements that the
20 districts be the same size as far as the
21 population is concerned. Now we are allowed
22 some statistical deviation, and in Georgia we
23 have traditionally limited ourselves to plus
24 or minus one percent.

25 So once we took areas from existing

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1 districts to create the new five districts, we
2 had to add population to those existing
3 districts from which we drew the new ones, so
4 that their population would get back up to
5 within the deviation, which, by the way, as
6 you know, the ideal size is 59,511.

7 So that's what we were shooting for.
8 So as a result we had to borrow -- or not
9 borrow. We had to redraw the districts so
10 that we took areas and population from
11 adjoining districts, from the neighbors. And
12 then the neighboring districts are short. So
13 we had to take from their neighbors.

14 And that process continued until the
15 ripples effectively run out, or you circle
16 back around and result in parity. As we went,
17 we followed our existing traditional
18 redistricting principles to work on the
19 remaining districts. These principles include
20 maintaining district populations to deviations
21 less than plus or minus one, limiting
22 additional split counties, we only added a
23 single county split in this plan, drawing the
24 new districts by utilizing the most recent
25 precincts from county government, which makes

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1 it easier on our local election officials
2 going forward, ensuring all the districts were
3 contiguous, that they are all reasonably
4 compact in shape, and ensuring that
5 communities of interest are protected as far
6 as possible.

7 And we did try, to the extent we could,
8 to avoid unnecessary pairing of incumbents.
9 Now, much has been made of the fact that this
10 plan does admittedly pair -- it does include
11 several incumbent pairings, which is not
12 surprising when we had to reconfigure these
13 districts after adding five new ones, and the
14 pairings do pain me greatly.

15 I wish that I could add five new
16 districts without any pairings or drastic
17 changes, but I could not find a way to do it.
18 And contrary to assertions that we're being
19 overly partisan, we did not inflict political
20 casualties solely on the opposing party. We
21 inflicted damage on both. We tried to take
22 some of that fire ourselves.

23 As we went through the process.
24 However, our primary overriding objective was
25 to comply with the Court's order. Five

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1 additional majority Black districts in
2 specified areas. Now, much has been made of
3 process here and giving some rulings I
4 reluctantly had to make today. I suspect much
5 will be made of it today.

6 We have been accused at times of moving
7 too fast and not being transparent, and I
8 concede that we have been moving quickly. But
9 I'm reminded of one of my quotes when a
10 Louisiana politician once promised during a
11 campaign that he would be as honest as the
12 times will allow. We're under a court imposed
13 deadline.

14 We did not receive the Court's order
15 until October 26th, and we immediately began
16 drawing and released a plan on November 28th,
17 two days before any alternate plans. And
18 we've been as open as we could be under the
19 circumstances. We're under a deadline here.
20 We got until next week to get this plan and
21 two other plans approved.

22 We held two hearings. We allowed
23 numerous parties to speak. We established and
24 maintain a portal for public comment, and we
25 allowed an alternate plan to be voted on

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1 yesterday, even though the bill enacting it,
2 no bill enacting it had been filed or even
3 assigned to the committee.

4 Now, this morning we attempted to allow
5 another opportunity for votes on alternate
6 plans, but when we got into the committee
7 room, it became apparent to me that the
8 documents that were being presented in order
9 to achieve certain intended objectives did not
10 match the intentions of the sponsor.

11 And that was completely, I am sure,
12 unintended. It was not intentional. Because
13 these things happen when you're trying to get
14 stuff done fast. And our rules are intended
15 to make sure that we don't make mistakes when
16 we're in a hurry. And I did not feel that I
17 knew what we were voting on.

18 I didn't think the documents matched
19 what the desires were. And so for that
20 reason, I ruled, reluctantly ruled those
21 motions out of order. Now so in the time
22 constraints we've had, we've been as
23 transparent, as deliberate as the times will
24 allow. To quote the gentleman from Louisiana.

25 Now, I don't mean to complain about the

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1 courts imposing a deadline. I understand the
2 need for it, and under the circumstances, it's
3 reasonable. But that does limit our ability
4 to take more time. That deadline is there for
5 honor -- for us to honor and respect, not to
6 disregard. And we got to meet it.

7 And as I said, it's seven days away and
8 we still have two other plans to consider. So
9 we had to move with all deliberate haste. The
10 stakes are high here and we need to act. The
11 Court will not give us another chance to draw
12 these plans. If we don't get it right, the
13 Court will appoint someone to draw plans or
14 draw the plans itself.

15 I take seriously my obligation to the
16 Court and to each of you, members of both
17 parties, to prepare and present maps that
18 comply with the Court's order. I think it's
19 in all of our best interest to do that. Where
20 I could accommodate requests from you without
21 jeopardizing potential Court approval of the
22 plan, because that is the primary goal, Court
23 approval.

24 I've tried to accommodate you when
25 you've asked where I did not feel that route

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1 was possible, given the overarching primary
2 objective of complying with Judge Jones order,
3 I decline the request. And I'm truly sorry I
4 could not accommodate every request.

5 I hope all of you know I care and
6 respect each and every one of you, even when
7 we disagree. And we do that a lot like most
8 families. But our primary task here today is
9 to comply with the court order. This plan
10 complies with Judge Jones's order. It
11 fulfills our obligation. And I ask that you
12 vote in favor of it. Mr. speaker, I'll yield
13 for questions.

14 SPEAKER JON BURNS: The gentleman
15 yield?

16 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: I yield.

17 SPEAKER JON BURNS: You yield for a
18 question, Mr. Chairman, I thank you. I just
19 say before we take questions. I thank you for
20 your work. I know you put you put in a lot of
21 hours. And we do appreciate that as members
22 of this body.

23 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: Thank you,
24 Mr. Speaker.

25 SPEAKER JON BURNS: We have a couple of

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1 questions that have popped up. Let's see. We
2 have one from the gentleman from the 43rd
3 Representative Adesanya has a question. The
4 gentleman is recognized.

5 REPRESENTATIVE ADESANYA: Does the
6 gentleman yield?

7 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: I yield, yes,
8 sir.

9 REPRESENTATIVE ADESANYA: Given what we
10 learned yesterday at the committee hearing,
11 isn't it true that this Republican map still
12 violates section of the Voting Rights Act?

13 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: Well, I don't
14 believe it does. And more importantly, I
15 don't believe it violates the judge's order.
16 Unlike when we're drawing maps from scratch,
17 we're not acting in a vacuum of trying to
18 interpret the Voting Rights Act. We have the
19 benefit of an expert who also has the force of
20 law behind him, Judge Jones, and he has told
21 us what to do in these plans, comply with that
22 order, in my opinion.

23 REPRESENTATIVE ADESANYA: Do you yield
24 one more time?

25 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: I certainly

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1 will.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ADESANYA: All right.

3 So, Brian Sales (phonetic) open it up to you

4 yesterday that this map, if we move forward

5 with it, does, in fact violate the Voting

6 Rights Act. And you acknowledged that

7 yesterday.

8 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: I acknowledge

9 his opinion. Yes, sir. I don't agree with

10 it.

11 REPRESENTATIVE ADESANYA: Okay.

12 SPEAKER JON BURNS: Thank you. Thank

13 you, Representative. Representative Reeves is

14 recognized for a question to your right.

15 REPRESENTATIVE REEVES: Thank you, Mr.

16 Speaker. Would the chairman yield for two

17 questions about traditional redistricting

18 principles?

19 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: Yes, sir.

20 REPRESENTATIVE REEVES: Mr. Chairman,

21 is it not true that the bill before us reduces

22 the number of county splits by one county from

23 the 2021 redistricting?

24 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: Yes, that's

25 my understanding. Yes, sir.

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1 REPRESENTATIVE REEVES: And is it also
2 true that your bill made every effort to
3 reduce the number of incumbent pairings in
4 compliance with in the course of complying
5 with Judge Jones's lengthy order?

6 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: We did. Yes,
7 sir. And it was. We did.

8 REPRESENTATIVE REEVES: Thank you, Mr.
9 Chairman. Thank you.

10 SPEAKER JON BURNS: Gentleman. Yield
11 for one more.

12 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: I will, yes,
13 sir.

14 SPEAKER JON BURNS: Let's see. The
15 lady from the 47th. The Pro Tem of this
16 House, Representative Jan Jones. Pro tem is
17 recognized for a question.

18 REPRESENTATIVE JAN JONES: Thank you.
19 Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the gentleman
20 yield?

21 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: Yes, ma'am.

22 REPRESENTATIVE JAN JONES: Mr.
23 Chairman, just so I understand, you spoke with
24 both Republicans and Democrats as you were
25 working on this plan, right?

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1 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: That is
2 correct.

3 REPRESENTATIVE JAN JONES: Does the
4 gentleman further yield?

5 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: I do, yes,
6 ma'am.

7 REPRESENTATIVE JAN JONES: Thank you.
8 And you drew this plan in the reapportionment
9 office with utilizing Ms. Gina Wright?

10 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: Yes, ma'am, I
11 did.

12 REPRESENTATIVE JAN JONES: And you were
13 able to incorporate suggestions of both
14 Republicans and Democrats into this plan. Is
15 that true?

16 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: I was to some
17 extent.

18 REPRESENTATIVE JAN JONES: And finally,
19 I'm assuming that you and perhaps you can
20 clarify, you had requests from both
21 Republicans and Democrats that you were unable
22 to put into the final plan, much to your
23 regret.

24 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: Yes, ma'am.
25 That's correct.

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1 REPRESENTATIVE JAN JONES: Thank you.

2 SPEAKER JON BURNS: Mr. Chairman, we
3 have a couple of hours here. We can continue
4 to discuss this plan. So I appreciate you
5 taking the questions. At this point, do you
6 have any further comments before we hear from
7 some other folks on this bill?

8 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: I do not, Mr.
9 Speaker, and we'll yield the well. I ask your
10 favorable consideration of House Bill 1EX.
11 Thank you.

12 SPEAKER JON BURNS: Gentlemen's
13 yielding the well, thank you for your remarks.
14 Now we have a one hour for those opposed
15 allocated for those opposed to HB 1EX and one
16 hour of for those in favor. So at this time,
17 I will recognize Whip Park for whatever
18 portion of that hour he would like to take.
19 Whip Park is recognized.

20 REPRESENTATIVE PARK: Thank you, Mr.
21 Speaker. Colleagues, I rise in opposition to
22 House Bill 1EX for two reasons. First, this
23 Republican map is unlawful. It is a map that
24 Judge Jones can and should reject. Second,
25 this map is an undemocratic, un-American,

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1 blatant exercise of partisan gerrymandering
2 that harms the freedom of Georgians to elect
3 their candidate of choice.

4 I appreciate the majority party's
5 effort to comply with Judge Jones's order.
6 However, under existing law, the proposed
7 Republican map does not comply with Judge
8 Jones's order to draw five additional majority
9 minority districts. Instead, the Republican
10 map actually draws only a net of three
11 additional majority minority districts.

12 Let me explain. The Republican map
13 creates five new majority Black districts, but
14 it takes away two majority/minority districts
15 in fast growing DeKalb and Gwinnett counties.
16 Judge Jones ordered this body to take five
17 steps forward and two steps back.

18 One of those steps back is House
19 District 81, which is a majority/minority
20 district in northern DeKalb County. Under
21 existing law and the 11th Circuit Court of
22 Appeals, this district is clearly protected by
23 the Voting Rights Act.

24 It's a district in which Black and
25 Hispanic voters work together and have the

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1 opportunity to elect candidates of their
2 choice, but the Republican map takes away that
3 choice and moves the district to the south
4 metro area to protect a White incumbent.

5 The second step back is House District
6 105, in Gwinnett County. This is a majority
7 minority district where Black, Hispanic, and
8 Asian voters work together and have the
9 opportunity to elect candidates of their
10 choice. But the Republican map floods the
11 district with white Republican voters and
12 takes that opportunity away.

13 Those two takeaways make the Republican
14 map an unlawful map. It's a map that, again,
15 Judge Jones can and should reject. I think in
16 this moment, it's important to pause and
17 recognize our history, to know where we've
18 come from, to be honest about the mistakes and
19 sins of the past, to ensure we do not repeat
20 them.

21 Since 1965, the state of Georgia was
22 placed under the preclearance requirement of
23 the Voting Rights Act due to a history of
24 discriminatory voting practices and
25 disenfranchisement of African American voters,

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1 including but not limited to literacy tests,
2 poll taxes, intimidation and violence, unfair
3 registration practices, and gerrymandering.

4 The preclearance provision, found in
5 Section 5 of the VRA of the Voting Rights Act,
6 required certain jurisdictions with a
7 demonstrated history of voting discrimination
8 to obtain federal approval or preclearance
9 before implementing any changes to their
10 voting laws or procedures.

11 For nearly 50 years, 50 years, Georgia
12 voters were under the protection of
13 preclearance until five Republican nominated
14 Supreme Court justices gutted the Voting
15 Rights Act in -- in the 2013 Shelby County v
16 holder decision.

17 For the first time since 1965, the
18 state of Georgia was able to draw their
19 legislative maps without first obtaining
20 federal approval. What did the Republican
21 majority do? Well, we all know what happened
22 next. Two years ago in 2021, Republicans,
23 many here in this body, passed unlawful maps
24 for Congress, the state Senate, and the state
25 House, maps struck down by a federal judge for

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1 being drawn in a racially discriminatory
2 manner.

3 And here we find ourselves under court
4 order to comply with the Voting Rights Act, to
5 draw fair maps that do not discriminate
6 against any Georgian. Unfortunately, it seems
7 we are repeating the mistakes of our dark past
8 under Republican control of the state of
9 Georgia.

10 Not only are these maps unlawful, in
11 order to cling to power and maintain an
12 unrepresentative majority that does not
13 reflect our great state, this map engages in
14 blatant partisan gerrymandering with districts
15 that very clearly disregard traditional
16 redistricting principles of compactness, and
17 communities of interest in multiple districts.

18 To put it plainly, it seems Republicans
19 are trying to remedy their racial
20 discrimination with partisan gerrymandering.
21 Again, it seems Republicans are trying to
22 remedy their racial discrimination with
23 partisan gerrymandering. Why? Because
24 Partisan gerrymandering is legal, according to
25 five Republican nominated Supreme Court

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1 justices, who incorrectly decided that claims
2 of unconstitutional Partisan gerrymandering
3 are not subject to federal court review.

4 Gerrymandering, whether it is racial or
5 partisan, is deeply undemocratic and un-
6 American because it undermines the principles
7 of fair representation and distorts the
8 democratic process. The distortion of
9 electoral outcomes, such as a congressional
10 map that creates nine Republican and five
11 Democratic districts, and a 50/50 swing state
12 that elected a Democratic president and two
13 Democratic United States senators in back to
14 back elections, erodes the confidence of
15 American voters.

16 It undermines the foundational
17 democratic principle of one person, one vote.
18 This manipulation fosters greater polarization
19 and partisanship that ultimately makes our
20 nation weaker. It is sad to see that the
21 Republican Party, the party of Abraham
22 Lincoln, who freed the slaves, has become the
23 party of Trump, the party of election
24 denialism and insurrection. The party of
25 racial discrimination and now gerrymandering.

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1 I hope you'll find your way back. I
2 hope you all get through your Civil War. And
3 I hope the anti-democracy authoritarian
4 faction of your party is expelled. In a two-
5 party system I welcome the competition of
6 ideas to see who can best serve the people and
7 perfect our union by ensuring the promise of
8 freedom, equality, and justice to every
9 American.

10 Unfortunately, as demonstrated by this
11 unlawful map, it seems the Republican Party is
12 doubling down on again, repeating the mistakes
13 of the past in pursuit of power. The blatant
14 disregard for existing law that protects
15 majority/minority districts in Georgia
16 demonstrates an intent to once again attack
17 the Voting Rights Act by narrowing its
18 protections.

19 It is unfortunate that as a native son
20 in Georgia, as a native son of Georgia, born
21 and raised, I have had a repeatedly come down
22 to this well over the past seven years to
23 fight back against Republican attacks against
24 our democracy. Attacks against a fundamental
25 freedoms and rights of my fellow Georgians,

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1 against a right to vote, and in this case,
2 their freedom to elect their candidate of
3 choice. Georgians deserve better.

4 We can do better than this unlawful
5 Republican map that puts partisan politics
6 before the citizens of Georgia, that puts
7 political party before our country. In the
8 words of John Lewis, Democracy is not a state,
9 it is an act.

10 Today, let us act in the best interests
11 of all Georgians by voting no to this unlawful
12 map that undermines the freedom of our fellow
13 citizens to elect their candidate of choice.
14 Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield the well.

15 SPEAKER JON BURNS: Whip Park has
16 yielded the well. Minority Leader James
17 Beverly is recognized to speak to the bill.
18 Leader Beverly.

19 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES BEVERLY: Thank
20 you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get started, I
21 want to clear the record, something that the
22 chairman of the redistricting committee said.
23 And that is that we had ample opportunity to
24 present our map. The reality is, is that you
25 put an artificial timetable on how we had to

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1 move through this process.

2 The reality is, is that it is not up to
3 the Georgia House Democratic Caucus to print
4 maps to get the map coincided with a LC
5 number. It is up to lead counsel and the
6 reapportionment office. That did not happen.
7 I think you did it in good faith. I think the
8 Republicans did it in good faith.

9 But if you just extended the time just
10 a little bit more. We could have made it work
11 where we had an opportunity to present our
12 map, which we believe is the best map for
13 Georgia at this particular time, that it's --
14 that it's equal. And that it's just. But
15 that did not happen. What is the rush to
16 judgment?

17 A couple of years ago, I remembered
18 sharing with you that although Abraham Lincoln
19 was not necessarily my favorite president,
20 there are notable quotes that speak to the
21 heart of democracy, one being stand with
22 anybody that stands right, stand with him
23 while he is right in part with him when he
24 goes wrong. My dear colleagues, I stand once
25 again to say the Democratic caucus must part

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1 ways with our Republican colleagues, as you
2 wield your majority power, to push through
3 what we believe to be an illegal map in order
4 to maintain power at the expense of our fellow
5 Georgians.

6 Today as the leader of the Democratic
7 caucus, I stand before you not merely in
8 political capacity, but as a custodian of a
9 legacy, a legacy that is steeped in the
10 struggle for equality and justice. We're
11 gathered here to deliberate on a matter of
12 immense significance, the redrawing of our
13 state's legislative House districts.

14 Now, this historic moment that we find
15 ourselves in right now is an opportunity to
16 right historical wrongs and to pave the way
17 for a future that honors the diverse voices of
18 our great state. An opportunity to remedy
19 some of the wrongs that have been particularly
20 directed toward our African American
21 electorate, those who have been historically
22 disenfranchised, stalled from having equal
23 access and opportunity to vote and select
24 their candidate of their choice and unjustly
25 targeted by placing barriers and stumbling

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1 blocks in their way.

2 Listen, over the past decade, there has
3 been a great migration. If y'all have not
4 realized this, there's been a great migration
5 back to Georgia, a migration of Black folk who
6 came from the northeast back to God's country,
7 Georgia. There's also been a migration of
8 people of different nations, colors, and
9 creeds who have come to Georgia because they
10 seek a better opportunity.

11 And the reality is in that opportunity
12 they move into districts that potentially they
13 wouldn't have moved into 100 years ago. But
14 they have. And they moved into these
15 districts and they need representation.
16 That's what the judge ordered. That this
17 group of folk who moved and migrated around
18 the state of Georgia should have
19 representation.

20 In the Republican map decided we'll
21 skirt around that just a little bit to protect
22 potentially some of our members. I'm going to
23 say a quote by Dr. King, and I think now is
24 appropriate to say this, as I continue to
25 deliver my speech, but I can hear him saying

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1 to America, and I'll say to the Republicans in
2 this caucus, in this House, our House today,
3 you're too arrogant.

4 And unless you change your ways, God
5 will rise up and break the backbone of your
6 power. And place it in the hands of a nation
7 that doesn't even know God's name. Be still.
8 And know that God is God. Georgia's history,
9 while rich and multifaceted, bears the scars
10 of past marred by racial injustice,
11 particularly in the realm of voting rights,
12 the disenfranchisement of Black voters through
13 mechanisms such as poll taxes, literacy tests,
14 and the white primary was just a denial of
15 rights -- was not just a denial of rights, but
16 a denial of dignity.

17 It is in this context that, again, Dr.
18 King said, our lives begin to end the day we
19 become silent about things that matter. This
20 matters. As my learned attorneys will say,
21 reasonable minds can disagree. But this is
22 the judge's order. We ought to comply.

23 We should have five additional Black
24 districts where Black folk can vote. Now, you
25 all have heard this, that well, the Democrats

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1 created four districts. It's foolishness. We
2 created five. We created five, according to
3 the judge's order. And to my attorney
4 colleagues, the reference would be Bartlet
5 versus Strickland is precedent case law that
6 talks about plurality districts. We did that.
7 We can keep going further. Cooper versus
8 Harris.

9 There's a whole litany of case law that
10 said what we created was a fifth district. So
11 please, please, guys, stop with the
12 foolishness. In fact, our districts are
13 almost carbon copies of the district that
14 Judge Jones approved in his order. District
15 145 is a new majority minority district
16 located in Bibb and Houston counties. That
17 is, a carbon copy, a carbon copy of the
18 District that Judge Jones approved.

19 We didn't move a block, not one block.
20 District 149 is a new majority minority
21 district and in the Black Belt. Now, if y'all
22 don't know what the Black Belt is, it's where
23 a where slaves -- that's the culmination of
24 where slaves were. The Black Belt is where I
25 live. Macon, Bibb, Twiggs, Wilkinson County,

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1 Baldwin counties that only deviates a few
2 census blocks from the districts that Judge
3 Jones approved. Those folk, we need
4 representation.
5 100 years is enough. And why did we
6 move those few census blocks? Here's why we
7 moved them. To protect our Republican
8 colleague who represents Milledgeville, who
9 would have otherwise been put in that new
10 Democratic leaning district. District 117 is
11 a new majority minority district in Henry
12 County that also is a carbon copy, a carbon
13 copy of the majority minority district that
14 Judge Jones approved.

15 District 61 in our map is a new
16 majority minority district in Douglas and Cobb
17 counties that is also carbon copy of what
18 Judge Jones approved. And finally, District
19 74 is a new majority/minority district in
20 Henry and Spalding counties that satisfies
21 Judge Jones's order for a fifth new
22 opportunity district in that area.

23 I'm going to pause for a second because
24 that district, there would be one Republican
25 member who will be sacrificed in that

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1 district, potentially. But we don't know what
2 that district would vote for because through
3 this political gerrymandering, y'all moved it
4 so that white Republicans could vote for that
5 member.

6 This great migration, I've learned one
7 thing and one thing only. If you can move
8 where you want to move, you move. But we
9 should not be moving people at all to satisfy
10 the need of a representative. If you don't
11 like where you live, move. Simple. If you
12 don't like the district that you're
13 representing right now, move. And let
14 somebody who represents that district step in.

15 It should not be on us to make the
16 people go with us. We should represent the
17 people where we are. In that district, that
18 one district, the sacrifice of that one person
19 is going to put us all in jeopardy because of
20 the ripple effect that you did to the rest of
21 the members in this House. And the judge, a
22 special master has to draw a map because of
23 the ripple effect that you created trying to
24 protect one, you sacrifice the whole.

25 Now, when a special master decides to

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1 draw this map, which we believe will happen,
2 because not only did you not comply with his
3 order, you broke the law. You broke the law.
4 Because coalition majority minority districts
5 are protected and it's gone on for 20 years or
6 so. It's protected. So you can't say we
7 complied and break the law. It's not how
8 America works. It's certainly not how Georgia
9 works. And it's certainly not what Judge
10 Jones ordered.

11 What I always say to you in conclusion
12 is this. The civil rights movement, which
13 found fertile ground in the heart of Georgia,
14 was a testament to the unyielding spirit of
15 those who fought for justice. The Voting
16 Rights Act of 1965 emerged from the struggle.
17 It was a beacon of hope.

18 The task of redrawing our maps, we must
19 do so with an acute awareness of our past and
20 a resolute commitment to equitable and a just
21 future. To my colleagues, I echo the words of
22 President Lyndon B. Johnson, the vote is the
23 most powerful instrument ever devised by man
24 for breaking down injustice.

25 We have decisions to make now, won't

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1 tarry because I know you all are under a time
2 crunch. But this is the time to do what's
3 right, to contemplate the reality of where we
4 go from here as a state of Georgia, the number
5 one state to do business unless you're poor
6 and you get sick. But we'll deal with that
7 next week.

8 This is our time to say to Georgia to
9 be resolute. In this moment to say, we hear
10 you, and if we want to represent you, then we
11 stand firm on the ideals and principles of
12 Georgia and justice, equality, and fairness.
13 To my Republican colleagues, you have a few
14 moments. Please don't violate the trust of
15 the Georgians who moved here looking for a
16 better opportunity because you wish to protect
17 one member. Mr. Speaker, I yield the well.

18 SPEAKER JON BURNS: The gentleman has
19 yielded the well. Minority Leader Beverly.
20 Now we'll move on to those in favor of the
21 proposition, HB 1EX will recommend recognize
22 Chair Lady Kemp to speak to the bill.

23 REPRESENTATIVE KEMP: Good morning.
24 Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you,
25 members --

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1 SPEAKER JON BURNS: Representative.

2 You'll yield. I forgot to tell you, you have
3 up to one hour that will be allocated to those
4 speaking in favor. I hope you don't take that
5 long.

6 REPRESENTATIVE KEMP: No, sir, I will
7 not. Thank you for that. Good morning,
8 members and, Mr. Speaker. When I qualified to
9 run for my House seat in March of 2020, of
10 course it was with the map that was current.
11 And then we redistricted in 2021. So I
12 qualified on another district map March of
13 2022.

14 Now I will have the opportunity to
15 qualify again on the third map, March of 2024.
16 This time in a district where I am paired with
17 another member of my own party, who is my
18 friend and respected colleague. Three
19 different district maps in the course of four
20 years. That's a lot.

21 This situation deeply saddens me
22 because I truly care about the people I
23 represent, working diligently to know and meet
24 the needs of the citizens who place their
25 trust in me in each election. It is my honor

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1 to represent the interest of Lamar, Pike, and
2 Upson counties and a privilege to serve in
3 this role.

4 These counties each have individual
5 unique needs and challenges that I am
6 committed to represent here under the Gold
7 Dome. Unfortunately, to meet the requirements
8 set forth in the detailed ordered by Judge
9 Jones regarding the 2021 redistricting,
10 drastic changes had to happen in many
11 districts. My district is a prime example.

12 Emotions cannot rule in this important
13 task with a looming deadline. There is a
14 judge's order with a specific set of
15 instructions to the General Assembly for the
16 requirements for the new house maps, which HB
17 1EX before us today meets. I observe and
18 follow the law and court orders. I'm sure
19 everyone in this room does the same.

20 There are three branches of government
21 for this very reason. The judge's order is
22 not up for debate today. It is if we as a
23 body are going to comply with the order is.
24 For this reason I am voting yes on House
25 redistricting bill HB 1EX, and I ask for your

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1 favorable consideration on this bill. Thank
2 you. Mr. Speaker, I yield the well.

3 SPEAKER JON BURNS: The lady has
4 yielded the well. Thank you. Chair now
5 recognizes Representative Sue Hong to speak to
6 the bill. One of the governor's floor
7 leaders. Representing Hong.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HONG: Thank you, Mr.
9 Speaker, and good morning, colleagues. I
10 stand before you this morning to speak in
11 favor of Chairman Leverett's House Bill 1EX.
12 The right to vote stands as a cornerstone of
13 fundamental pillar upon which our society
14 rests. As a Supreme Court said in *Wo* versus
15 *Hopkins* in 1886, the right to vote is regarded
16 as a fundamental political right because it is
17 preservative of all rights.

18 Unlike many of you, I wasn't born with
19 the right to vote in the United States. As an
20 immigrant, I had to wait my time. I had to
21 take a test to become a citizen before I could
22 vote. So I understand the tremendous
23 importance of voting and having my voice heard
24 with my vote.

25 Voting matters because it's the way

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1 every person's voice is heard, regardless of
2 background or circumstance. Voting matters
3 because it's the power each person has to
4 elect their representatives. And voting
5 matters because it's how we can shape the
6 trajectory of our community and our state.

7 And when the Supreme Court said the
8 right to vote is preservative of all of our
9 other rights, it meant just that. Without the
10 right to vote, our other rights can quickly
11 disappear and we jeopardize our free society.
12 Now, this body worked hard to create district
13 maps in 2021 that fairly represented all
14 voters.

15 As I look out at this body of
16 representatives, I see a diverse group of
17 representatives with backgrounds and beliefs
18 who I truly believe represent their
19 constituents very well. Unfortunately and
20 respectfully, Judge Jones did not agree with
21 this current body of representatives.

22 And as an attorney, I do understand
23 that when a judge tells you in detail to do
24 something in an order, you comply. Judge
25 Jones specifically stated to create five

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1 majority Black districts, not opportunity
2 districts or coalition districts or crossover
3 districts. Specifically five majority Black
4 districts.

5 And there's a reason why judges put
6 specifics in their order and you must comply.
7 Chairman, Leverett's House Bill 1EX map does
8 just that. It complies with everything that
9 the judge required of us. It also upholds our
10 other traditional redistricting principles,
11 things like ensuring that community of
12 interests are properly represented and
13 addressed, and reducing the number of county
14 splits on the plan, and using precinct
15 boundaries that lessen the burden on election
16 officials.

17 HB 1EX map upholds the principles of
18 equal representation and ensures each voter
19 can have their voices heard. Therefore, I
20 urge you, members of this House in joining me
21 to vote yes for House Bill 1EX. Thank you,
22 Mr. Speaker, and I yield the well.

23 SPEAKER JON BURNS: The lady has
24 yielded the well. That concludes those that
25 signed up to speak both in favor of and

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1 opposed. This time we'll move on. We do not
2 have a minority report. We will move on to
3 the chair's time. We have a total of 20
4 minutes, Mr. Chairman. And I hope you don't
5 take that wrong. You talked quite a while
6 earlier. Chairman Leverett is recognized to
7 speak to the bill.

8 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: Thank you,
9 Mr. Speaker. I would say I'll be brief, but
10 as an attorney, I know that doesn't carry a
11 lot of credibility. Well, it was interesting
12 to me if I could just respond that we were
13 accused of being overtly and shamelessly
14 partisan. But the most partisan comments I
15 heard coming from the podium in this chamber
16 came from members of the opposing party, not
17 from anyone who is in the majority party.

18 And I would submit, if we truly wanted
19 to be overtly and excessively partisan, we
20 would have paired entirely members of the
21 opposition. But we didn't do that. We tried
22 to share some of that, of that burden, if you
23 will. Now up to, as far as some of the
24 comments about timeliness, I mean, I the only
25 thing I will say is I think we know the rules,

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1 and we know that to submit a bill to
2 redistrict -- to present a plan to
3 redistricting, you have to have a bill.

4 You got to draw the bill. We've had
5 the order for about a month now, and we all
6 knew this was coming. So I don't know what
7 more to do about that. Well, frankly, I do.
8 You could allow a motion without a document.
9 And that's what I did in committee yesterday.
10 And nobody made the motion. I indicated I was
11 going to entertain such a motion, and no one
12 made it without a document.

13 And the document that was proposed
14 today didn't do that even. So, again, I think
15 I've stated my position there and as far as
16 (inaudible), that's all I have to say about
17 that. Now, the only other plan that was
18 properly submitted to the committee was
19 presented yesterday, and the presenters
20 acknowledged that the plan did not create five
21 majority Black districts as the order
22 required.

23 Justin, if you'd roll that beautiful
24 order footage. This is from page 509 of Judge
25 Jones's order. The remedy involves an

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1 additional majority. Black congressional
2 district in West Metro, two additional Senate
3 districts in South Metro. We're getting to
4 that later. Two additional majority Black
5 house districts in South Metro Atlanta, one
6 additional majority Black House district in
7 West Metro Atlanta, and two additional
8 majority Black house districts in and around
9 Macon-Bibb.

10 Our plan, the HB 1EX, does that. I
11 don't think Judge Jones could be clearer about
12 it. I do not want to be in a hearing in a
13 remedial phase. Having to explain to Judge
14 Jones how I thought he really meant something
15 else than that, that's just not a good
16 position to be in. I'm not an expert in the
17 Voting Rights Act, but I know a little bit
18 about judges, and I don't think they enjoy it
19 when you either disregard their orders or try
20 to construe them in a manner that that is
21 unreasonable. And when they're unhappy, that
22 usually falls upon the person who did the
23 improper construing.

24 Our plan complies with that -- with
25 that order. It complies with that provision.

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1 And that's clear guidance that Judge Jones
2 kindly gave us. Now, I heard some comment
3 about how these some of the districts in our
4 plan didn't actually comply with the order
5 because they weren't majority Black, but they
6 were. Every one of them was. We've vetted
7 that with Ms. Wright. We've confirmed the
8 data and they comply. And the argument was
9 made that we somehow broke the law by
10 complying with the order or by not doing
11 something else other than what Judge Jones
12 required.

13 Well, in the defense of the people
14 making that argument, I think what they are
15 saying is Judge Jones's order is not exactly
16 in compliance with the Voting Rights Act. He
17 misconstrued the Voting Rights Act. So we
18 ought to do what we believe should be done
19 instead of what he ordered. I don't want to
20 go into court taking that position.

21 I just don't think that's a wise
22 approach to getting the plans approved. And
23 we retained every majority district we have.
24 It does say additional. And we created five
25 more. Finally, just on a personal note, I

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1 acknowledge, you know, redistricting -- Judge
2 Hurd used to say about well -- it reminds me
3 of a quote. Quote, judge heard a former
4 member of this body, you say about taking
5 castor oil. He said, one of the greatest
6 things about being administered doses of
7 castor oil is it reminds you of the finer
8 things in life, like the times between the
9 doses of castor oil.

10 That's redistricting. I wish we didn't
11 have to do this. I really wish we didn't.
12 But we've ordered and I have tried as chairman
13 to comply with that order in the best way I
14 knew how, taking advice of the reapportionment
15 office and of counsel and complying with the
16 order and complying with the Voting Rights
17 Act.

18 And I would not propose something that
19 I felt harmed any one of you in any way,
20 unless I felt it was necessary to comply with
21 the court order. I don't believe one can be
22 terribly sentimental when you're trying to
23 comply with a court order. The people in this
24 chamber mean a lot to me personally.

25 And I'm being sincere about that. When

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1 we were doing this two years ago, I went home
2 on the weekend and my mother passed
3 unexpectedly. And I couldn't come back Monday
4 and Tuesday and so I stay at home, obviously,
5 till we had the funeral, and I think the day I
6 mentioned that to one person in this chamber,
7 within seconds my phone lit up with text of
8 condolences. So much so that it basically you
9 couldn't hold the phone. It shook off the
10 table. This body means a lot to me.

11 Every one of you mean a lot to me.
12 Even when we disagree. The thing I really
13 appreciate about the people in this body is we
14 disagree and we do it civilly and we still
15 remain friends. At least we try to. And I
16 know in this process it's tough. It's easy
17 for me to sit up here, and my district haven't
18 changed, it haven't been touched.

19 So that's easy for me to say, but --
20 but you folks mean a lot to me. When she
21 passed, one of you wrote me a note. A
22 personal note that is one of the kindest
23 things I have ever received. Didn't know you
24 that well at that time. And I really
25 appreciate it. I still appreciate it.

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1 And I appreciate this body and the
2 thought that I would intentionally try to draw
3 somebody out for a reason other than complying
4 with an order is just anathema to me. And I
5 would hope you would all know me better.
6 That's what we have to do. The order, the
7 House Bill one complies with that order. We
8 don't have a lot of time. We need to get this
9 done.

10 And I ask that you approve and vote in
11 favor of House Bill 1EX so we can move on to
12 the rest of the business we have to finish by
13 the court imposed deadline. Thank you, Mr.
14 Speaker. I yield the well.

15 SPEAKER JON BURNS: The gentleman's
16 yielded the well. There's no doubt of your
17 sincerity or of your work ethic or your hard
18 work. Thank you for working on this
19 proposition for all members of the House.
20 That concludes all of those that had allocated
21 time to speak to the bill. So at this time,
22 members, if you'll come to the chamber. If
23 you're outside the chamber will ask you to
24 come to the chamber. Mr. clerk, why don't you
25 ring the bell?

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1 Is there any objection to the previous
2 question being ordered? The Chair hears none.
3 The previous question is ordered. Is there
4 any objection to agreeing to the report of the
5 committee which was favorable to the passage
6 of the bill? The Chair hears none. The
7 report of the Committee is agreed to. Shall
8 this bill now pass? All in favor of the
9 passage of the bill will vote yes. All those
10 opposed will vote no and the clerk will unlock
11 the machine.

12 For what purpose does the lady from the
13 93rd Representative Carter rise?

14 REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: Parliamentary
15 inquiry.

16 SPEAKER JON BURNS: State your inquiry.

17 REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: First apology.
18 I had the wrong button pushed when I wanted to
19 ask a question earlier. So the question,
20 because the author of the bill states that
21 it's unintentional. But if anyone was to look
22 at House District 93 on this new map it's
23 being called a dead cat.

24 It is the most erroneous gerrymandering
25 that I probably have seen. You take a

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1 district. You go East. You go North. And
2 then you go West. And then there's a district
3 sandwiched in between. I would hope that
4 everyone would vote no, because this map is
5 not only disenfranchising the members, the
6 voters of DeKalb, Rockdale, Newton, and now
7 Gwinnett, it is affecting our entire state.
8 So this map should go back to the starting
9 point, because --

10 SPEAKER JON BURNS: I think that's the
11 lady's question.

12 REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: Yeah, yeah,
13 that's the question. House District 93 alone
14 should send it back.

15 SPEAKER JON BURNS: Well, I appreciate
16 the lady's viewpoint, and I'm sure the lady
17 believes everything she just said. The lady
18 from the 56th is recognized. For what purpose
19 does she rise? Representative Mainor.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MAINOR: Parliamentary
21 inquiry.

22 SPEAKER JON BURNS: State your inquiry.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MAINOR: Thank you, Mr.
24 Speaker. Isn't it true that the judge's order
25 is not about creating Democrat districts or

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1 Republican districts? It's about creating

2 majority Black districts. Is that not true?

3 SPEAKER JON BURNS: I think that's

4 true. I know that to be.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MAINOR: True, is it not

6 further true to my colleagues?

7 SPEAKER JON BURNS: Is this a further

8 inquiry?

9 REPRESENTATIVE MAINOR: Further inquiry,

10 if I may, Mr. Speaker.

11 SPEAKER JON BURNS: You're recognized.

12 REPRESENTATIVE MAINOR: Is it not

13 further true to sit here and say that

14 Republicans are being racist is certainly not

15 true, as I am a Republican and I am certainly

16 not racist. I take offense to such

17 statements.

18 SPEAKER JON BURNS: Is that a question?

19 Do you have a question?

20 REPRESENTATIVE MAINOR: That is my --

21 is that not true?

22 SPEAKER JON BURNS: I'm sure if the

23 lady so states, that's what the lady certainly

24 believes.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MAINOR: Thank you, Mr.

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1 Speaker.

2 SPEAKER JON BURNS: We're going to take
3 a couple more and then we're going to close
4 this vote. I know this lady has -- wanted the
5 opportunity to make a comment and speak. So
6 Chair recognizes the lady from the 108th House
7 District Representative Clark. Representative
8 Clark, for what purpose do you rise?

9 REPRESENTATIVE CLARK: Thank you, Mr.
10 Speaker. Parliamentary inquiry.

11 SPEAKER JON BURNS: State your inquiry.

12 REPRESENTATIVE CLARK: Is it not true
13 that there are many iterations of maps that
14 could be drawn that would not pair six members
15 of the Democratic Party together? Is that not
16 true, Mr. Speaker?

17 SPEAKER JON BURNS: I'm sure the lady
18 has studied the map and studied the state and
19 believes what she says is true. Thank you for
20 your point. We have one more and let's see.
21 We have let's hear from some history from
22 someone who's been around for a couple of
23 these. For what purpose does the gentleman
24 from the 167th House district rise?

25 Chairman --

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1 MALE VOICE: Parliamentary inquiry.

2 SPEAKER JON BURNS: state your inquiry.

3 MALE VOICE: Isn't it true that the

4 last map that a Republican majority in this

5 House drew my district went from being a part

6 of Liberty County to tiny parts of six

7 counties, going all the way from the coast in

8 McIntosh County, through Liberty Long Brian

9 Bullock to the very top of Candler County to

10 the Emanuel County line? Isn't that true, Mr.

11 Speaker?

12 SPEAKER JON BURNS: I'm sure I remember

13 that. And I'm glad you had that district when

14 you were a younger man, because you would have

15 had trouble covering all of that these days.

16 So. But you do a great job of representing

17 your district. I'm not saying that. So I'm

18 sure the gentleman speaks the truth. We're

19 going to take one last inquiry here. I'm

20 going to recognize the gentleman from the

21 143rd, the minority leader of this House.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BEVERLY: Thank you, Mr.

23 Speaker. Parliamentary Inquiry.

24 SPEAKER JON BURNS: State your inquiry.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BEVERLY: Is it not true

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1 that the public Democratic map House map only
2 created issues with 23 House districts. Is
3 that not true?

4 SPEAKER JON BURNS: I'm sure if the
5 gentleman so states, I won't comment on that,
6 but I'm sure that's what the gentleman
7 believes.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BEVERLY: Is it also not
9 true, Mr. Speaker, that the Republican map
10 created problems for 50 plus House districts?
11 Is that not true?

12 SPEAKER JON BURNS: If that's a
13 question, finish your inquiry, then I'll make
14 a comment.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BEVERLY: Mr. Speaker,
16 the inquiry is this in the in the Democratic
17 House, the public map that is public. That we
18 did not couple Democratic members. In the
19 Georgia House of Representatives. Is that not
20 true? With the public map.

21 SPEAKER JON BURNS: I'm not privy to
22 your map right now, so I'll have to take your
23 word that that's what you did.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BEVERLY: Lastly, Mr.
25 Speaker, is it not true that that it was

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1 unnecessary, absolutely unnecessary to couple
2 Democratic members in the Georgia House
3 Democratic caucus with the map that
4 Republicans drew, because the judge was very
5 specific in the regions in which he
6 identified. Is that not true, Mr. speaker?

7 SPEAKER JON BURNS: I'm sure the
8 gentleman believes that. I said that was the
9 last one. But I think if I'm going to hear
10 from the minority leader, I also need to hear
11 from the majority leader, the gentleman from
12 the 104th House District Leader Efstration.

13 REPRESENTATIVE EFSTRATION:
14 Parliamentary inquiry.

15 SPEAKER JON BURNS: State that inquiry.

16 REPRESENTATIVE EFSTRATION: Mr. Speaker
17 is not true that the publicly released map, as
18 I understand it, was the map that the minority
19 leader presented in committee and that was
20 presented on the second day of committee, when
21 he was given an opportunity to present the
22 first day, and that from a study of the map,
23 it was acknowledged by all involved that it
24 failed to comply with the requirement from --
25 from the judge that we just saw projected on

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1 the board to create five districts as
2 outlined, it only created four and therefore
3 did not comply with the specific order as
4 written by the judge. Is that not true?

5 SPEAKER JON BURNS: Well, I'm sure the
6 gentleman understands what he's saying. And
7 he believes what he's saying. And so thank
8 you for your inquiry. I'll make one last
9 statement, and we're going to close this out.
10 It has been my intent from when this process
11 began a few a month ago or longer, and that
12 time frame not quite a month ago to comply
13 with Judge Jones's order.

14 And I also know that I have many
15 friends that are serving in this General
16 Assembly right now in this House. And my
17 friends on both sides of the aisle have been
18 impacted by this redistricting. It's not my
19 choice to be here. But we're going to be here
20 and we're doing the work that's been assigned
21 to us.

22 We're going to comply with this with
23 Judge Jones's order. We're going to create
24 new Black majority districts in this state.
25 That's what we were told to do. That's what

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1 this map does. I feel comfortable with this
2 map. And we'll move forward. So with that, I
3 thank all the members have voted. All members
4 voted. Mr. Clerk, lock the machines.

5 On the passage of the bill, the yeas
6 were 101, the nays 77. The bill, having
7 received the requisite constitutional
8 majority, is therefore passed. For what
9 purpose does Chairman Leverett rise?

10 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: To make a
11 motion.

12 SPEAKER JON BURNS: State your motion.

13 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: I move that
14 we immediately transmit House Bill 1EX to the
15 Senate.

16 SPEAKER JON BURNS: There's objection.
17 The gentleman moved.

18 REPRESENTATIVE LEVERETT: The gentleman
19 moves.

20 SPEAKER JON BURNS: There's been
21 objection to immediate transmittal of House
22 Bill 1EX and the gentleman's moved. We'll
23 vote it. All of those in favor of immediate
24 transmittal will vote yes. That's green. All
25 those opposed to immediate transmittal will

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1 vote no. That's red. The clerk will unlock
2 the machines.
3 Have all members voted? All members
4 voted? If so, Mr. Clerk, will you lock the
5 machines? On the gentleman's motion that. HB
6 1EX be immediately transmitted to the Senate.
7 The yeas, the Greens are 101, the nays the
8 read are 76. The bill is on its way to the
9 Senate.

10 (End of Video Recording.)

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1 CERTIFICATE

2

3 I, Wendy Sawyer, do hereby certify that I was
4 authorized to and transcribed the foregoing recorded
5 proceedings, and that the transcript is a true record, to
6 the best of my ability.

6

7

8

DATED this 15th day of December, 2023.

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WENDY SAWYER, CDLT

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[illegible]

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