[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right, members. Let's get stated. This is February the 4th, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. I'd like to call the meeting to order. Madam secretary, if you would please call the roll.

SECRETARY: Senator Hewett?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Present.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Milligan?

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Present.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Allain?

SENATOR BRET ALLAIN: Here.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Foil?

SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Here.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Tarver?

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: Here.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Womack?

SENATOR GLEN WOMACK: Here.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Reese?

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Here.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Harris?

SENATOR JIMMY HARRIS: Here.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Price?

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: Here.

SECRETARY: Present. That is nine and a quorum.

Hearing Exhibit
PR-57
3:22-cv-00211-SDD-RLB

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right, terrific. Thank you everyone for being here again. Members of the public, thank you for joining us. The work before the committee today is to wrap up our senate and congressional bills. We've been working on those all week in amending them and hearing amendments and hearing public testimony and certainly of course hearing from the bill authors. So, at this point, what I would like to do is to say to the public what my plan is, is to go through each bill on the agenda in chronological order. If there are any additional comments from the public, you will be given an opportunity to make those. I would say again, if you're already on the record having said some comments, if you have anything new, we would love to hear it. Otherwise, you may or not need to come to the table again, because it's not my intent to rehash everything we've been through this week. But I will give you an opportunity, because there could be some new people in our audience as well. And then I'll invite the author of that particular bill to do a very, very short closing and then we will see what the will is of the committee to dispose of those bills and so, we'll do that one at a time. We'll go through each bill. All right. So, we're going to

begin with Senate Bill 1. So, to the public again, there's cards. I want to make sure you have an opportunity if you need to and then I'll give you a chance to say yes and then fill out a card. Is there anyone here that would like to speak on Senate Bill 1 before President Cortez closes? Mr. Baham? Okay. Come to the table if you like and then you could fill out a card.

MR. BAHAM: Thank you, Senator Hewitt. The parish president of St. Bernard ask that I come here today to make a statement about Senate Bill 1. Historically up until 2011, St. Bernard was always in the same senate district together with Plaquemines Parish. Now, we know that when Hurricane Katrina, our population got scattered and we no longer had the same population we did. We are one of the fastest growing parishes in Louisiana. Since we've started to rebuilding, we would prefer to be all in one district. We know the numbers don't always work out that way but at the same time, we wanted to at least make our case.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Okay, understood.

MR. BAHAM: Thank you.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you for being here and then if you would just fill up the appropriate

card and give it to the sergeant at arms, I would appreciate that. All right, any other public comments on Senate Bill 1 before I invite the president to close? All right, seeing none. Mr. President, if you'd like to close on your bill.

SENATOR PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee. I won't take a long time, but I do want to reiterate how we got to where we are today and the principles that were used. I want to also mention that I have over the last month or so spoken with every individual senator as well as many members of the public as well as many house members relative to this plan. I have tried to follow these particular principles. Number one, to ensure that the one man one vote doctrine is applied. There were shifts in the population and so there was a requirement to as much as possible not dilute any individual voter's influence, to provide that the current majority-minority districts have that same equal opportunity to elect, for the minority community to elect the candidate of its choice.

[00:05:03]

I also applied the principle in each and every district of preserving the course of the existing districts along with their communities of the

1 interest. We heard that. You all heard that on the
2 roadshow many times. Please preserve our district as
3 best as possible with the understanding that there
4 are shifts in populations. I applied the principle to
5 maintain the continuity of representation such that I
6 don't believe that we should go get voters to
7 maintain the elected official, but that the voters
8 should have the right to elect or to send home the
9 elected official that is doing the job for them. So,
10 as much as possible, I try to keep that. And then we
11 applied some compactness; we wanted to make sure that
12 they were compact as much as possible. There was some
13 cases when we couldn't, but the current map was not
14 compact in some areas. That map was pre-cleared some
15 11 years ago and it has stood up to all of them, the
16 judicial muster. We did have shifts in population and
17 the map and the bill that's in front of you today
18 migrated a particular senate district from Northwest
19 Louisiana to the Northshore, and that had ripple
20 effects throughout the state from the Northwest, the
21 Northeast, Central Louisiana, the Southwest, the
22 Acadiana area and all the way down to the coast and
23 wrapping around to the Northshore. The capital region
24 is the one region that had the least amount of effect
25 on it and it was because of the consistency in

population and its geographic location. The rest of the districts, again, I'm going to go back and say, as much as possible we try to maintain and preserve the course of those existing districts and I feel like this particular map has done that. So, with that, I'd just say that this has been a long process. It's been an interesting process. Someone told me the other day, "You could probably do go back and teach Louisiana geography now that you've done this exercise," and I feel like I could. I learned a lot about everybody's districts, very interesting. Every part of the state is very interesting and how everyone of them has a story, and they're all very distinct and unique. So, with respect to that, that's how this map was drawn. So, thank you, Madam Chair and whatever the pleasure the committee is.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you, Mr. President and again, thank you on behalf of all of us for all of your work on this bill. You've invested hundreds of hours, I have no doubt, in this bill and so, we all very much appreciate that.

SENATOR PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ: Can I just say one more?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Of course.

SENATOR PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ: Someone asked me, "How did you start this map?" and I'm going to tell you that I'm not a map drawer, but I started with that basic premise that I mentioned earlier that there was population shortages in the north and I want to tell everyone in here saw and I look at all the faces particularly Senator Allain. When I showed him the first iteration, he blew a gasket because I had shifted his, but it was my map. It was just my map. I'm not a map drawer, but I tried. So, through that process, each one of you got a chance to just rewrite your deal. So, thank you to the staff who helped to redraw the bad map that I had initially.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Tarver, do you have a motion?

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: Just say something.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Okay.

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: I'm not going to make a motion. First, I'd like to thank you very much, Mr. President. I know you talked to everybody in here. I know I talked to you these 20 times.

SENATOR PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ: Thirty.

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: Thirty. I know it's a very difficult task in redistricting the senate districts. It's just like walking into someone house

and saying, "I don't want that couch here. I want that couch over there." It's going to be hard and so, you have a very, very difficult time telling, "Well it will be frustrated at everything like that and people make you made."

[00:10:05]

But you held it very well, you did an excellent job, you worked with us and sometimes, some of the laws could be very difficult. I wasn't difficult at this time by the way.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: It was the other people that have been difficult.

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: I work with you and I ask you that my district was something like 80% minority and I told you reduce because I think -- and I'm very clear, that we need to work across racial lines and work together as one to make things happen. I have a rural area in Shreveport, in Caddo Parish, and it's basically rule. I work with my constituency out there. By the way, they're 65% of them are Republicans, but I've been working with them for 30 years, and let me tell you something. They work very well, but you have to go over there to each community, may be a black community, may be a white community and ask the people, "What do you want, and

I'm here to represent you." It doesn't matter if you're Democrat or Republican. You've got to work with the people and you've got to serve your constituents. That's your responsibility. So I want to thank you very much for doing what you were doing. I know it's hard, and I know dealing with our people like [INDISCERNIBLE 00:11:32] is much more harder than dealing with me.

SENATOR PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ: That's simply the diversity of the state. Caddo Parish is different than the people in Northwest Louisiana.

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: That's right.

SENATOR PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ: And the core element of your district, we tried to preserve. You did lose population.

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: I lost population. I lost 16,000 to 17,000, but I just want to thank you.

SENATOR PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ: Thank you for those kind words.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Thank you, senator. Senator Milligan?

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I reiterate the thanks and appreciation for your leadership and your patience with all of us. Most of us have never been through this. So,

obviously, your first map ideas, we all needed to work together to be able to move forward and I appreciate your help and leadership. I appreciate the staff. Madam Chairwoman, I'd like to at the appropriate time move SB1 as amended.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right, let's see if that's -- hold that thought, I have Senator Allain.

SENATOR BRET ALLAIN: Well, since you called me out. Listen, I want to publicly thank you for working with me. This was, I know, a difficult process for you and your first iteration. I knew the numbers needed to move all of our districts because of loss of population to the east of me and the gain of population on the west of me and that we needed to move that way, but I was also listening to my people who didn't want me to quite go as far as we could, and I think we backed out going to the west as much as we could until the districts were so full that we couldn't move anymore. I'm happy with the process, I want to thank you for being reasonable and working with all of us. I know I speak for a lot of people that you -- reasonable and courteous. I don't think I blew a gasket, I just think that's my nature being a little persuasive at times.

SENATOR PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ: The initial map was not exactly what you wanted, let me just say that.

SENATOR BRET ALLAIN: Well, and I was listening to the people that didn't want me to quite go that far to the west, and you work with me and I think the product that we have now is not perfect. I wish we could have backed up a little bit more, but we got to a point where the numbers wouldn't allow us to move any further and I want to thank you for that.

MR SENATOR PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ: Thank you. Dr. Blair had so many iterations. I think we went alphabetical, A through -- and I think we finished on T or U, and then we had multiple amendments to that one. So, I would tell you that we probably went through 20 different iterations and many of those came at the suggestion of different delegations, and you all working together to maintain the core elements of your district as you listen to your constituents and with your colleagues to your neighboring senate districts. It was a process that worked because everybody worked together, and at the end of the day, to your point, nobody is perfectly satisfied because of the shifts in population and we had to change. So, that's usually a good thing when no one's exactly satisfied.

[00:15:00]

That means you helped your colleague and you didn't at the expense of them make yours perfect and theirs terrible, you know? So, that was part of the process. Thank you.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: So, in a true show of bipartisanship, not we've thrown Senator Allain and Senator Price under the bus, right? That's what you all said. All right, Senator Price.

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: That's exactly right until Senator Talbot threw me under the bus, I wasn't going to say anything. But anyway, no, thank you for all the work you did, and truly, I know you and I have a competing maps on the senate district and it's hard. It's been real tough on all of us at some point, but we've all worked together and that's the most important thing that I think we've achieved is that we can sit on at the table, talk about what's going on and what we need to do. I applaud you for listening. You've done very well, you showed your leadership, and that's what this is about. So, we're going to continue to work together wherever we may go with this, but I appreciate your leadership and I want you to know that. Thanks so much.

SENATOR PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ: Thank you, Senator Price and look, there's a lot of elements of your map that I agree with. Of course, you took them off of my map.

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: I certainly did.

SENATOR PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ: But there are some -- as you could find some defects in my map, I could certainly find some in yours relative to the principles that I've tried to apply and so, nothing's perfect but I appreciate you and your willingness to work in your region along with Senator Ward and Senator Smith and Allain. That whole region was a very difficult task and yet, we worked through it, so thank you.

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: And Bret kind of bullied me, I want you all to know. Thank you.

SENATOR BRET ALLAIN: State everything you want.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. The Board is clear. We have a motion from Senator Milligan to report Senate Bill 1 with amendments. Is there any objection to that?

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: I object.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Senator Tarver objects. All right, Madam Secretary, if you will call for the

vote. A vote yes is to report the bill with amendments. A vote no would be to not do so.

SECRETARY: Senator Milligan?

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Allain?

SENATOR BRET ALLAIN: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Foil?

SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Tarver?

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: No.

SECRETARY: No. Senator Womack?

SENATOR GLEN WOMACK: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Reese?

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Harris?

SENATOR JIMMY HARRIS: No.

SECRETARY: No. Senator Price?

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: No.

SECRETARY: No.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Senator Hewitt.

SECRETARY: Senator Hewitt?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. That is six yeas and three nays. So it will pass.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you. So, that bill, Senate Bill 1 will be reported with amendments. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ: Thank you, and I just want to thank again the staff because they put in a large number of hours, so Sue and Dr. Blair and Yolanda. Thank you all so much for the hard work. Thank you.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you, sir. All right, our next bill is Senate Bill 2 from Senator Fields, it's one of our congressional bills. Do I have any cards? All right, I don't have any cards from the public on Senate Bill 2. Senator, you're welcome to close when you're ready.

SENATOR CLEO FIELDS: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee. I would like to -- basically, this bill is a bill that create two minority districts for congress. It also complies with subsection two of the Voting Rights Act. The state population grew from a black perspective by 3.78%. The white population in the state decreased by 6.3%. So the state population is 33 -- black is 33.13% and the white population 57.059%. That's a copy of the map. This map is more compact than the present congressional districts, and I just -- you

know the figures of the two minority districts, the second congressional district is 55.5% and the fifth congressional district is 55.2%. I would ask the committee vote this map favorable, send it to the floor for floor debate. If you choose not to vote this map favorable, there are about four other maps that precedes this one. Vote at least one of these maps favorable.

[00:20:00]

Lastly, this map was amended yesterday in committee. It is the same map that the Legal Defense Fund basically presented to the committee in his roadshow and all, because the chairwoman made a point on yesterday about the deviations. This map has a 0% deviation. So, I tender this map to you. It's in compliance with the Voting Rights Act and Tax Act and I ask for your favorable consideration.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Get the pressure button, sir. Senator Tarver for a motion.

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: For the third time move favorable.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: I want to make sure you're on the record, senator.

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: Okay.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Senator Milligan.

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: I offer a substitute motion to defer.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Okay. Senator Tarver has made a motion to report with amendments. Senator Milligan has made a substitute motion to defer. So, we will take up the substitute motion first. A vote yes will defer the bill. A vote no will give us the opportunity to act on Senator Tarver's motion. Madam Secretary, if you would please call the vote.

SECRETARY: Senator Milligan?

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Allain?

SENATOR ALLEN: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Foil?

SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Tarver?

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: No.

SECRETARY: No. Senator Womack?

SENATOR GLEN WOMACK: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Reese?

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Harris?

SENATOR JIMMY HARRIS: No.

SECRETARY: No. Senator Price?

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: No.

SECRETARY: No. Senator Hewitt?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. So, that will be another six-three.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Six-three. All right. Senator Fields, thank you so much for all of your work on this bill. We will defer Senate Bill 2.

SENATOR CLEO FIELDS: Thank you, Madam Chair. You want to take then?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Senate Bill 4. Yes, sir.

SENATOR CLEO FIELDS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Members of the committee, Senate Bill 4 basically creates two majority-minority districts. It is compliant with subsection four of the Voting Rights Act. The first majority-minority district is 55.9% black in the second congressional district. The second majority-minority district is created in the fifth congressional district. It is 54.7% black. I tender this bill to you. It is more compact than the present congressional districts. It is compliant with federal law and I ask for its favorable consideration.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Thank you, senator. Senator Tarver?

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: I like to move the bill favorable.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Senator Tarver would like to move that we report this bill favorable. Senator Milligan?

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: I'd like to offer a substitute motion to defer Senate Bill 4.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Hold that thought. Senator Allain.

SENATOR BRET ALLAIN: He beat me to it.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Okay. All right. Senator Tarver has moved that we report Senate Bill 4 favorable to which Senator Milligan has offered a substitute motion to defer. I guess I should ask, is there any objection to deferring Senate Bill 4? Well, I guess there is. All right. So, we will take a vote on deferring on Senator Milligan's motion to defer. A vote yes would defer the bill. A vote no will allow us to take action on Senator Tarver's original motion.

SECRETARY: Senator Milligan?

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Allain?

SENATOR BRET ALLAIN: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Foil?

SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Tarver?

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: No.

SECRETARY: No. Senator Womack?

SENATOR GLEN WOMACK: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Reese?

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Harris?

SENATOR JIMMY HARRIS: No.

SECRETARY: No. Senator Price?

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: No.

SECRETARY: No. Senator Hewitt?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Yes.

SECRETARY: That is another six-three vote.

SENATOR FIELDS: Thank you Madam Chair and members.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right, thank you, senator. We'll report that bill. We'll leave that bill. That bill will be deferred. Senate Bill 4. All right, we're going to take up Senate Bill 5.

[00:25:00]

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: So, on Senate Bill 5, are we taking public testimony? Is there any public comments related to Senate Bill 5?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you, there was. There is a card there.

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Okay. We have Michael Baham and supports Senate Bill 5, do not wish to speak but present support and that's the only card we have. So, none Chairwoman. Senate Bill 5.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to close on this bill. Before we start, I want to say a few kind of personal thoughts. I want to acknowledge kind of how we got here and the participation around the state and the roadshows. The participation here yesterday and some of the powerful testimony that we have heard in this committee and on the road. I want to acknowledge Senator Fields and I appreciate your comments yesterday, your opening comments on your bill. I want you to know I've been moved by much of what I've heard. Several members of the public in their comments yesterday and others on the road have helped me to better understand the passion around the right to vote and the importance of the Voting Right Act. Senator Price, I was especially moved yesterday when one of the ladies came and testified and she said, "I just felt like I had to be here. I had to come and speak. I wanted to be heard." We've heard that

1 Senator Price along on the roadshow from other people
2 that were just as passionate about that, and I really
3 appreciate that. Some people have traveled around the
4 state, right? So, we had people here from North
5 Louisiana who traveled here yesterday to speak and it
6 really has helped me to understand more about how
7 people feel. It's a blessing and I appreciate that
8 people took the time to say that and to help us
9 understand better. So, I just want to acknowledge
10 that because that's been a very important part of the
11 process and an important part of the journey to me.
12 It's not just about maps and numbers. It is about
13 people and I appreciate that. I believe that Senate
14 Bill 5, as we have drawn it, does comply with the
15 Voting Rights Act and that it does the best job of
16 the maps presented to this committee in keeping
17 communities of interest, parishes and precincts
18 together and providing for continuity of
19 representation by preserving the cores of our current
20 districts. Senate Bill 5 provides a majority-minority
21 district in Congressional District 2 and then New
22 Orleans and the Baton Rouge areas that has
23 consistently provided minority voters in that
24 district the opportunity to elect candidates of their
25 choice. In addition, I do not believe and there is

too much uncertainty to convince us otherwise that a second majority-minority district can be drawn in Louisiana that is sufficiently compact and would perform as a minority district without greatly diminishing the opportunity to elect a candidate of choice that has currently afforded the voters in Congressional District 2. By taking minority voters out of a district that is 56% black VAP today and creating two underperforming districts as proposed in several other bills, we would jeopardize the current majority-minority district and this legislature would be remiss in our obligations to comply with the Voting Rights Act. Moreover, Congressional District 2 over the past decade has seen a drop in black VAP from 58.5% down to 56.3% over the last 10 years. We're drawing this map for the whole decade and this gives us the greatest assurance that we comply with the law. Senate Bill 5 meets all federal and state laws and does the best job of addressing the redistricting principles adopted by the legislature and I ask this committee to report this bill favorable to the full senate.

[00:30:07]

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman, and thank you for all of your work. I

1 know it's been a yeoman's task in trying to put all
2 this together and you work as leader of the committee
3 and we do appreciate you. What's the pleasure of the
4 committee, Senator Womack?
5 SENATOR GLEN WOMACK: Yeah. Thank you, Vice Chair.
6 Chairman Hewitt, I just want to -- Chairwoman Hewitt,
7 I would like to just thank you for your hard work and
8 your passion in putting this map together and these
9 numbers together. And with that, I'd like to make a
10 motion that we move favorably on SB5.
11 SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Thank you, Senator
12 Womack. Any objections to moving senate -- on that,
13 we have an objection from Senator Tarver. We will
14 vote. A vote yes, will be to move Senate Bill 5
15 favorable. Madam secretary?
16 SECRETARY: Senator Milligan?
17 SEANTOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Yes.
18 SECRETARY: Senator Allain?
19 SENATOR BRET ALLAIN: Yeah.
20 SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Foil?
21 SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Yes.
22 SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Tarver?
23 SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: No.
24 SECRETARY: No. Senator Womack?
25 SENATOR GLEN WOMACK: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Reese?

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Harris?

SENATOR JIMMY HARRIS: No.

SECRETARY: No. Senator Price?

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: No.

SECRETARY: No. Senator Hewitt?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. That is six yeas and three nays.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you, members. I appreciate it.

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. Next, we will take up Senate Bill 9.

SENATOR CLEO FIELDS: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee. Senate Bill 9, create two minority-majority districts for congress. I District 2, it's 54.5% black. In District 5, it's 54.2% black. It is more compact than Senate Bill 5. It is more compact than the present congressional districts as they are now. It complies with subsection five of the Voting Rights Act and I tender this to you as yet another option, and I ask for your favorable consideration. And lastly, this is not new to the committee. This proposal was proposed to the

1 committee by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund doing this
2 roadshow.
3 SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you, senator.
4 Senator Price?
5 SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: I move favorable.
6 SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Senator Price
7 has move favorable. Senator Reese?
8 SENATOR MIKE REESE: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.
9 I make a substitute motion to defer.
10 SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Senator Reese
11 has made a substitute motion to defer. We will take a
12 vote. A vote yes would be to defer. A vote no would
13 be to act on the original motion. Madam secretary, if
14 would please call for the vote.
15 SECRETARY: Senator Hewitt?
16 SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Yes.
17 SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Milligan?
18 SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Yes.
19 SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Allain?
20 SENATOR BRET ALLAIN: Yes.
21 SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Foil?
22 SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Yes.
23 SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Tarver?
24 SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: No.
25 SECRETARY: No. Senator Womack?

SENATOR GLEN WOMACK: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Reese?

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Harris?

SENATOR JIMMY HARRIS: No.

SECRETARY: No. And Senator Price?

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: No.

SECRETARY: No. Six-three, so the bill is deferred.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Okay. Senate Bill 9 will be deferred. Senator Fields, do you want to handle Senate Bills 11 and 16?

SENATOR CLEO FIELDS: Yes, ma'am, Madam Chair, I'll be handling Senate Bill 11 and 16.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. If you would like to speak on Senate Bill 11, thank you for doing that.

SENATOR CLEO FIELDS: All right. Senate Bill 11 by Senator Smith, create two majority-minority districts. Both districts are more compact than the present congressional districts. This plan was presented to this committee doing the roadshow by the Legal Defense Fund. This plan is more compact than Senate Bill 5. I tender it to you. Both districts performed. The analysis was submitted by the Legal

Defense Fund to the committee and I tender it to you as another option, and would like for you to send it to the floor so the floor body can vote on it.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you, senator. Senator Price?

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: Move favorable.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you. Senator Price has moved favorable on this bill. Senator Tarver?

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: No.

[00:35:00]

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Senator Allain?

SENATOR BRET ALLAIN: Substitute, we defer.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Senator Allain has move through a substitute motion that we defer Senate Bill 11. A vote yes would defer the bill. A vote no would allow us to take action on the original motion. Madam secretary, if you would please call for the vote.

SECRETARY: Senator Hewitt?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Milligan?

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Allain?

SENATOR BRET ALLAIN: Yes. Senator Foil?

SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Tarver?

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: No.

SECRETARY: No. Senator Womack?

SENATOR GLEN WOMACK: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Reese?

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Harris? No. Senator Price?

SENETOR EDWARD PRICE: No.

SECRETARY: No. That is six-three. Six yeas, three nays. The bill is deferred.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you. Senate Bill 11 will be deferred. Senator Fields, would you like to handle Senate Bill 16 also?

SENATOR CLEO FIELDS: Yes, ma'am, Madam Chairwoman. The last bill and the last opportunity to send a congressional bill that in my opinion complies with subsection two of the Voting Rights Act would be Senate Bill 16 by Senator Luneau. This bill has been tested by the Legal Defense Fund. It is not a new bill. It was submitted doing the roadshow. It creates two majority-minority districts. Both districts have been tested. I tender it to you and I ask for your favorable consideration.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you very much, senator. What is the pleasure of the committee? Senator Tarver?

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: To move to be favorable.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Senator Tarver has made a motion to move this bill favorable. Senator Foil?

SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: I would like to make a substitute motion to defer and to keep the bill in committee.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Senator Foil has made a substitute motion to defer Senate Bill 16. A vote yes would defer the bill. A vote no would allow us to take action on the original motion. Madam secretary, if you would please call for the vote.

SECRETARY: Senator Hewitt?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Milligan?

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Allain?

SENATOR BRET ALLAIN: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Foil?

SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Tarver?

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: No.

SECRETARY: No. Senator Womack?

SENATOR GLEN WOMACK: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Reese?

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Harris?

SENATOR JIMMY HARRIS: No.

SECRETARY: No. And Senator Price?

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: No.

SECRETARY: No. Six yeas, three nays. The bill is deferred.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you. So, Senate Bill 16 will be deferred.

SENATOR FIELDS: Thank you, Madam Chair and members.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you so much, Senator Fields, and thank you for all of your work. Senator Price for Senate Bill 17.

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members of the committee. I bring to you Senate Bill 17 which is a senate map that draws two minority districts. It creates two new minority districts. It actually keeps a district in the Shreveport area. That of course has been moved in the president's map. It keeps that in Shreveport as a minority district. And then Senate District 17, which is the West Baton

Rouge area. Pointe Coupee, it makes that district a minority district for plus of two new minority districts. I traveled throughout this state with the chairman. I think we both made all of the hearings and I heard the people. I heard their wishes also. And of course, they talked about two minority districts at every -- creating two new minority districts at every stop, and so, I wanted to provide that opportunity. It meets the standard, meet section two of the Voting Rights Act, and it's in line with what we heard on the hearings. I just would like that this committee please consider that -- bring it to the floor and let the entire body have the discussion on this bill so that we can get a full picture of what's happening, and give everybody an opportunity on whether they want to keep a district in the Shreveport area, which is Caddo, Bossier, and the other districts. So, at this time, I just move favorable on Senate Bill 17.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you, senator. All right. What's the pleasure of the committee on Senate Bill 17?

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: I move favorable already.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Excuse me. Senator Price, you can do that.

[00:40:00]

All right. So, Senator Price has moved favorable on Senate Bill 17. Senator Reese?

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I'd make a substitute motion to defer.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Senator Reese has made a substitute motion to defer. A vote yes would defer. A vote no would allow us to act on Senator Price's original motion. Madam secretary, if you would please call for the vote.

SECRETARY: Senator Hewitt?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Milligan?

SENATOR BARRY MILLIGAN: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Allain?

SENATOR BRET ALLAIN: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Foil?

SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Tarver? Senator Tarver?

SENATOR GREGORY TARVER: No.

SECRETARY: No. Senator Womack?

SENATOR GLEN WOMACK: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Reese?

SENATOR MIKE REESE: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Harris? No. Senator Price?

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: No.

SECRETARY: No. Six yeas, three nays, and the bill is deferred.

SENATOR EDWARD PRICE: Thank you, Madam.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you, senator. Senate Bill 17 will be deferred. All right. Is there any other business before this committee? All right, members, our plan for Monday will be our next committee hearing. Monday at 9:30, we'll announce that later on the senate floor. We will hear all of the BESE bills and the Public Service Commission bills that have been filled, so that will be Monday's schedule, 9:30. Motion from Senator Womack to adjourn. Thank you.

[00:41:45]

TRANSPERFECT
LEGAL SOLUTIONS

I, Anders Nelson, hereby certify that the document "F895004-louisiana-redistricting_0204_22_SG-2" is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and accurate transcription from English to English.

Anders Nelson
Project Manager

April 27, 2022