SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right, good morning. Let's call this meeting to order, this is Senate Governmental Affairs, February, the 15th, Madam Secretary, if you would, please call the roll.

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Hewitt?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Present!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present! Senator Milligan?

SENATOR MILLIGAN: Present!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present! Senator Alan? Senator Foil?

SENATOR FOIL: Here!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Tarver?

SENATOR TARVER: Here!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present! Senator Womack?

SENATOR WOMACK: Present!

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Reese?

SENATOR REESE: Here!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present! Senator Harris and Senator Price?

SENATOR PRICE: Here!

MADAM SECRETARY: That is seven in acorn.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Thank you! Members, you also have minutes in your folders from February the 14th, which was yesterday, make a motion Senator Milligan to approve the minutes. Any

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discussion on that? All right, seeing none, then those minutes will be approved. All right, we have four bills on our agenda this morning. I'd like to take these out of order, a little bit to give our house members an opportunity to get to their Committee Hearing in a few minutes, beginning with Chairman Stefanski on HB2 dealing with reapportionment of the PSC.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Madam Chairwoman and members of the Committee. As we discussed yesterday, this is the bill that reapportions the Public Service Commission. As you know, there's five districts, approximately 900,000 in population. I started with our current map, I made sure that the one majority-minority district would continue to allow the minority community in that District to elect a candidate of its choice, I then expanded out and made sure that the numbers were - were more compact. I checked with Senator Tarver, he looked, he said it was good. And so I'm here asking for your approval, I am here asking for your approval to move this bill forward. Senator Reese and I worked as we discussed yesterday, we worked on it. I think we both have an agreement to move our bills out of Committee today in their current forms and then we're

going to try to come together with one version and move forward and I think we're very close. This has been the least controversial bill out of all them. It had no no-votes on the House floor. I noticed on the Senate, your version had no no-votes on the Senate floor. So, like I said, Senator Reese and I are going to continue to work to merge these into one version that works the best for the State of Louisiana.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right, Senator Reese.

SENATOR REESE: Thank you Madam Chairwoman. I move favorable.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. I don't see any other questions on the board. Senator Reese has moved that we move HB2 favorable. We reported favorable, any objection to that? All right, seeing none, we will report HB2 favorable. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you members of Committee. Thank you Madam Chairwoman.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right, next, we'll hear from Representative Thomas, HB3 reapportioning BESI and just as a reminder, again to the public, if you have cards, you know, send them up and I'll try to make sure that they get read into the record, I

will give you an opportunity to speak. Yes, ma'am. Welcome. Welcome back!

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: Thank you. Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I could say actually pretty much ditto to what Representative Stefanski said. We have done some work on our respective bills, Senator Foil and I have come to agreement yesterday. You adopted a set of amendments and we expect the same thing to happen in Housing Governmental today and then come to agreement for the betterment of the citizens of Louisiana.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Okay, Senator Foil.

SENATOR FOIL: Thank you Madam Chair. Thank you Representative Thomas for working with me on my bill and your bill. We are fairly closed, we have some areas of the State we have to look at and we'll work through the process and I'm confident it will come up with one bill between the two of us. So, I would move favorable to report with -- with amendments at the appropriate time.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right, Senator Price.

SENATOR PRICE: Thank you Madam Chairman. Representative Thomas during your preparing this bill, did you look at possibly adding a third minority district or was that on the consideration?

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: It was, I actually had three bills that were submitted by outside folks, two from the NAACP and one from Fair Districts.

[00:05:00]

The Fair Districts' map actually had no minority districts, which I thought was quite interesting and the numbers that went with the NAACP submissions were very far out of line. You know, for what we needed to consider.

SENATOR PRICE: They were outside the deviation.

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: Yes.

SENATOR PRICE: Okay, I think I saw those maps. I don't remember them being outside of the deviation, but you can probably tell me if you got it.

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: The #1 map was 8.3% overall deviation and the #2 was 7.98%. In addition, if you looked at split Parishes, which was an important consideration given that this is BESI and our school system is -- our school systems typically are arranged by Parishes 61 of 64 parishes are arranged by Parish. So it was important to not split Parishes. In the -- the map that -- in the bill that I presented before the amendments were put on, there were only 11 split Parishes. In the NAACP 1 and 2, there were respectively 18 and 26 in split

municipalities as well 31, 57 and in my original bill only 27. In split precincts, there were 2 and 27 and in my bill 0.

SENATOR PRICE: Okay. Thank you.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Thank you Senator Price. Okay. I don't see any other questions on the board. I would like to read a couple of cards. We have a green card, do not wish to speak present and in support Jared Evans of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and a card in opposition do not wish to speak Edgar Cage Together Louisiana. I think they on Senate Bill 3.

MADAM SECRETARY: House Bill.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Sorry, House Bill 3. One of them says Senate Bill 3, one says House Bill 3. I think they intend House Bill 3 on both. Okay. All right. I think those are all the cards. All right, we have a motion from Senator Foil to report HB3 with amendments to which Senator Price objects. So we'll call for the roll, we will call a vote. So a vote yes is to report the bill with the amendments? A vote no would be to not do so.

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Milligan?

SENATOR MILLIGAN: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Alan?

SENATOR ALAN: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Foil?

SENATOR FOIL: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Tarver?

SENATOR TARVER: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Womack?

SENATOR WOMACK: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Reese?

SENATOR REESE: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes Senator Price?

SENATOR PRICE: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Hewitt.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes, that would be six yays, two nays and the bill is reported with amendments. All right. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you Representative Thomas. All right, Speaker Schexnayder, thank you so much for -- for your patients presenting HB1, which is reapportioning Congress.

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Good morning, senators. Thank y'all. Thank you Chairlady for letting me present what I think is a fair Congressional map. I think if you look at it and look at the numbers that we have, I think you see that we've population has

grown in Louisiana by 2.74%, looking at and I won't go into through all of it. But I think if you look at Senator Hewitt's map and -- and my map, there's some small differences in it. There were some places where I felt like trying my best not to split parishes and precincts. We went in and did those things to make sure that we could accommodate each congressional district.

[00:10:00]

I think, if you look at the deviations of the numbers on my map, which I have is, you know, you look at District 1, it's a -24; in District 2, it's a +25; in District 3, it's a 117 and District 4, it's a -4; District 5, it's a +30 and then in District 6, it's a -5, which if you look at the overall range and the relative deviation it puts it at a 0.00%. So I think as far as the numbers, I think it works out really well talking to all of the congressmen and getting with them just like with anything they are -- they are -- they are satisfied with the map or they are 100%, probably not. But I don't think there's any map in here that we have right now, whether it's PSC, BESI, House Senate that everybody is 100% on. So.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: It's hard to argue with a 0.000%, whatever the number was, it sounded like a

lot of zeros. All right, any questions for the speaker. Senator Price?

SENATOR PRICE: Thank you. I think the PSC map was pretty much a 100%.

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Wasn't it?

SENATOR PRICE: It didn't have any opposition but and Mr. Speaker, and you and I have talked during the consideration of the Roadshow that was a lot of people who testified about a second minority congressional district. And I know that's been some back and forth, and several maps was in and including some on the Senate side. I do have an amendment Madam Chairman, if we can bring it up at this time.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Okay. Steph, do you have an amendment?

SENATOR PRICE: I will explain it out as they pass it out. If that's okay?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Yes, that would be great Senator. Thank you.

SENATOR PRICE: Thank you. And in this amendment, what it does is provide two minority district, District 2 and District 5, District 2 Total Black population is 54.498 and in District 5, it's 54.034. The voting age population, Black is 52.268 and 51.42 and under the registration, District 2 registered

Black 55.261 and District 5 would be 52.817 and I offer this amendment Madam Chairman that that you can provide two minority district. I know we've had the discussion on your standards of what it is but those are the map. It is a compact map. It does meet deviation and I offer that amendment for your approval. I think we did not get the other maps of the floor to have a full discussion and I'd accept this time that we approve this amendment so we can have this discussion on the floor with everybody.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Let's see. So Senator let me just ask you is this, so this is similar to one of the bills that we already heard in Committee?

SENATOR PRICE: Yes.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Okay, okay. So it is a bill that the Committee has seen before as opposed to like a first-time never seen it before amendment.

SENATOR PRICE: That's correct.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Like this is part of what I am asking. Okay, all right. Senator Alan, question on the amendment?

SENATOR ALAN: Yes. Madam Chairman, I would, since this is the speaker's bill, I would like to

hear from the author his opinion of the proposed amendment.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Okay, Mr. Speaker and you probably haven't had a chance to see it fully yet, but -

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: I haven't had a chance to see it, but I, you know, I appreciate Senator Price's efforts and works that he's put into his amendment, but I can tell you that traveling on the roadshows, doing the things that we have done meeting with people, talking to our Congressional delegation across the board, I think what we have done in my map takes in consideration of a path that is best fit for Louisiana.

[00:15:08]

I think, I think what you see in my map is a map that was drawn fairly and I think my map is -- is a map that represents the State of Louisiana.

SENATOR PRICE: And - and - and I do agree with you. Madam Chair at the appropriate time, I'd like to move, we defer this amendment.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right, it's not quite the appropriate time yet. So hold that thought. Senator Reese on the amendment.

SENATOR REESE: Thank you Madam Chairman. Well I am on the amendment as I am getting an opportunity to look at this, like some of the other amendments that we have seen, you know, there is probably no larger single federal asset in the State of Louisiana than Fort Polk, which is in Vernon Parish and this amendment like some of the other amendments and maps. We've seen splits that, you know Community. I don't know there's a greater community of interest as it relates to federal government policy in the State of Louisiana, quite frankly, and so because of that, I would, I would certainly object to any amendment that -- oppose any amendment that would split that -- that significant Federal asset and that significant Federal community of interest that exists in Vernon Parish. Thank you.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Thank you. Senator Tarver on the amendment.

SENATOR TARVER: Mr. Speaker, are you saying that 33% of this State only deserve one representation.

SENATOR REESE: I'm saying that with the information that I gathered from the roadshows, and the information that I've gathered from the people that we met with, looking at my map, they're saying

that my map is a fairly represented map for the State of Louisiana.

SENATOR TARVER: So you are saying 33% do not deserve two representatives, and you are saying one representative for 33% is fair.

SENATOR REESE: I'm saying that the information that I gathered from the people of Louisiana -

SENATOR TARVER: Did you have U&A or when you heard them?

SENATOR REESE: I had both my U&As talk with either of them and all of them were in agreement with me, so.

SENATOR TARVER: Well I didn't make the roadshow but everything I heard from the roadshows, they disagreed and they said that while they have two representative of minorities in the State to represent 33% of the, of the population. But you know, this is not the end of it. This is only the beginning.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Did you know? All right, Senator Tarver. All right, I don't see any other questions on the amendment on the Board. Senator Alan has moved that we reject the amendment. Correct?

SENATOR ALAN: Subject the motion to defer.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Okay. All right, excuse me. So Senator Price has moved that we -- all right hang on Steph is trying to straighten me out here.

[CROSSTALK]

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. Okay. So Senator Alan has objected to the amendment, made a motion to object to the amendment. So a vote yes will be to object to the amendment. A vote no will be otherwise, that's not right. All right, somebody straighten me out.

[CROSSTALK]

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right. You would think we've done this enough times so that would have this done patent by now. Sir? All right, every now and then Senator Price throws me a curveball. All right, so, all right, Senator Price has moved favorable on Amendment Set 153 to which Senator Alan has objected. So, we will take a vote. So a vote yes will be to adopt the amendment. A vote no will be to reject the amendment. Madam Secretary, please call for the vote.

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Milligan?

SENATOR MILLIGAN: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No. Senator Alan?

SENATOR ALAN: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Foil?

SENATOR FOIL: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No. Senator Tarver.

SENATOR TARVER: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Womack?

SENATOR WOMACK: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No. Senator Reese. No. Senator Price. Yes and Senator Hewitt?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: That is 6 nays, 2 yays and it fails.

[00:20:00]

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: All right so yeah Amendment 153 then fails, back on the bill. All right any questions from members on the bill. I see no questions. Mr. Speaker, would you like to close?

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: No I would just appreciate all y'all taking a look at the bill and as y'all know this is not the end result. We can, we can work on this bill as we move forward and you have my pledge that I will keep that door open and allow us to work on it to make it a better bill as we move forward, so.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: I appreciate that before we have move forward, I need to read the cards that I

have. I have three red cards present in opposition, but do not wish to speak, Davante Louis, Edgar cage, and Jared Evans.

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: That's all the red cards, I thought that was Valentine cards, but -

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: That was yesterday's cards yeah. Okay. All right. So what's the pleasure of the Committee on House Bill, House Bill 1? All right, I think Senator Milligan moved favorable on House Bill 1. Any objection? Senator Tarver objects. All right. So we'll call for a vote. A vote yes is to report this bill favorable. A vote no would to do otherwise.

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Milligan?

SENATOR MILLIGAN: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Alan?

SENATOR ALAN: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Foil?

SENATOR FOIL: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: No. Senator Tarver.

SENATOR TARVER: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No. Senator Womack?

SENATOR WOMACK: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Reese?

SENATOR REESE: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Price?

SENATOR PRICE: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No and Senator Hewitt?

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. That is 6 yays, 2 nays and HBI is reported favorable.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: HB1 is reported favorable. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Thank you Chairman and thank you Senators, I appreciate y'all. Thank you.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you. All right our last bill is Senator Luneau, would you yeah ask him, he will come in please. Okay, I have been informed that Senator Luneau does not wish to have his bill heard today. So that is the end of our agenda. Is there any other business before this Committee? Seeing none, then Senator Milligan moves to adjourn. Thank you members and we will - I think at this point, let me see have we heard, I am trying to think about if we have bills left to be heard. Right now, I don't think we have any bills that have been referred to this Committee. So standby, we will wait and see and we will make an announcement on the Senate floor as to whether or not this Committee will meet one more time or if our job here has been done. Okay? All

right, thank you all very much for your work. I appreciate it. Meeting adjourned!

[00:24:40]

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