OFFICIAL JOURNAL

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OF THE

STATE OF LOUISIANA

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

Second Veto Session of the Legislature
Under the Adoption of the
Constitution of 1974

House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

The House of Representatives was called to order at 12:01 P.M., by the Honorable Clay Schexnayder, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Morning Hour

ROLL CALL

The roll being called, the following members answered to their names:

PRESENT

Mr. Speaker	Frieman	Miguez
Adams	Gadberry	Miller, D.
Amedee	Gaines	Miller, G.
Bacala	Garofalo	Mincey
Bagley	Geymann	Moore
Beaullieu	Glover	Muscarello
Bishop	Goudeau	Nelson
Bourriaque	Green	Newell
Boyd	Harris	Orgeron
Brass	Hilferty	Owen, C.
Brown	Hodges	Owen, R.
Bryant	Hollis	Phelps
Butler	Horton	Pierre
Carpenter	Hughes	Pressly
Carrier	Huval	Riser
Carter, W.	Illg	Romero
Cormier	Ivey	Schamerhorn
Coussan	Jefferson	Schlegel
Cox	Jenkins	Seabaugh
Crews	Johnson, M.	Selders
Davis	Johnson, T.	St. Blanc
Deshotel	Jordan	Stagni
DeVillier	Kerner	Stefanski
DuBuisson	LaCombe	Tarver
Duplessis	Landry	Thomas
Echols	Larvadain	Thompson
Edmonds	Lyons	Turner
Edmonston	Mack	Villio
Emerson	Magee	Wheat
Farnum	Marcelle	White
Firment	Marino	Willard
Fisher	McCormick	Wright
Fontenot	McFarland	Zeringue
Freeman	McKnight	
Freiberg	McMahen	

Total - 103

The Speaker announced that there were 103 members present and a quorum.

Prayer

Prayer was offered by Rep. Coussan.

Pledge of Allegiance

Rep. Stefanski led the House in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Motion

On motion of Rep. Magee, the Speaker appointed the following special committee to notify the Governor that the House is convened and prepared to transact business: Reps. Beaullieu, Butler, Carpenter, Geymann and Selders.

Motion

On motion of Rep. Magee, the Speaker appointed the following special committee to notify the Senate that the House is convened and prepared to transact business: Reps. DeVillier, DuBuisson, Larvadain, Moore and Charles Owen.

Reports of Special Committees

The special committee appointed to notify the Governor that the House had convened and was prepared to transact business reported that it had performed that duty.

The special committee appointed to notify the Senate that the House had convened and was prepared to transact business reported that it had performed that duty.

The Speaker thanked and discharged the committees.

Committee from the Senate

A special committee from the Senate notified the House that the Senate has convened and is prepared to transact business.

The Speaker thanked and dismissed the committee.

Petitions, Memorials, and Communications

The following petitions, memorials, and communications were received and read:

Message from the Governor

The following message from the Governor was received and read:

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

John Bel Edwards
Governor

March 10, 2022

Honorable Clay J. Schexnayder
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

Exhibit
LEG_51

Honorable Patrick Page Cortez
President
Louisiana State Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

RE: 2022 First Extraordinary Session

Dear Speaker Schexnayder and President Cortez:

Please let this letter serve as formal notification that I have acted on all bills sent to me from the 2022 First Extraordinary Session. I have vetoed two bills (House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 5). I have submitted to the Secretary of State without signature House Bill 14 and Senate Bill 1. I have signed all remaining bills (House Bills 2 and 3) and submitted them to the Secretary of State.

Sincerely,

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
Governor

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

John Bel Edwards
Governor

March 9, 2022

Honorable Clay J. Schexnayder
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

RE: House Bill 14 of the 2022 First Extraordinary Session

Dear Speaker Schexnayder:

Please be advised that, pursuant to Art. III, Section 18(A) of the Louisiana Constitution, House Bill 14 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2022 will become law without my signature.

This bill is the Legislature's effort to reapportion the Louisiana House of Representatives. In passing this map, the Legislature rejected several alternative proposals that would have reflected a fairer representation of the population demographics of the state. It is clear that the primary rationale behind the creation and passage of this map was to protect incumbents and to preserve the current party split in the House of Representatives.

Like with the congressional maps, it is my firm belief that this map for the Louisiana House of Representatives violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and further is not in line with the principle of fundamental fairness that should have driven this process. Nevertheless, while I have vetoed the congressional maps and asked the Legislature to continue its work to send a congressional map to me that is fair and complies with current law, this map for the Louisiana House of Representatives will become law without my signature. Over the last six years, every single bill passed by the Legislature that has become law has done so through my signature. These maps reapportioning the Louisiana House and Senate will be the first two bills in 18 legislative sessions to become law without my signature. This decision, however, was not made lightly. The districts created by the Legislature clearly do not reflect the demographic makeup of the state and specifically do not allow for enough majority minority districts when Black Louisianans make up 31.2% of the state's voting age population. It is a simple fact that too many Black voters are denied the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice to the Louisiana House of Representatives. After thoughtful consideration, I simply cannot sign the bill because I do not support the district map for the House of Representatives created by the Legislature.

Unlike the congressional maps, however, I will allow this bill to become law without my signature because I am not confident that the Legislature would reach any different result if it were to be given the chance to revisit this map in the upcoming session. There will be many important topics to debate over the next few months and Legislators should be able to focus on these important issues without the concern that any decisions or votes they make will have an impact on the way their districts would look for the 2023 elections. Furthermore, given the certainty that the legislative maps will be challenged in court, this action allows for those challenges to proceed now with the expectation that the litigation may be resolved well before the 2023 legislative elections.

Sincerely,

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
Governor

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

John Bel Edwards
Governor

March 9, 2022

Honorable Clay J. Schexnayder
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

RE: Veto of House Bill 1 of the 2022 First Extraordinary Session

Dear Speaker Schexnayder:

Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 1 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2022.

This bill is the Legislature's effort to conduct the mandatory reapportionment of the congressional map for the United States House of Representatives. While much work was put into the development of this map by members of the Legislature, it is clear that the primary rationale behind the creation and passage of the map was to protect incumbents and to preserve the party split in the current congressional delegation. In so doing, the Legislature disregarded the shifting demographics of the state, which unquestionably call for the addition of a second majority minority district. Specifically, the Black voting age population in the state increased by 4.4% from the 2010 census to the 2020 census, resulting in the Black voting age population making up 31.2%, almost one-third of the State's population. Instead of accounting for this increase in population, the Legislature preserved the status quo and enacted a map where Black voters in five of the six congressional districts are deprived of the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

It is my firm belief that this map violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and further is not in line with the principle of fundamental fairness that should have driven this process. In choosing this map, the Legislature rejected numerous alternative maps with two majority minority districts, which happen to be one-third of the six congressional districts, that would have given more Black voters an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice. While no electoral map is perfect, and no map is a guarantee of

success for a certain candidate, these alternatives would have allowed for a fairer allocation of voting strength to a population that has been historically disadvantaged. As eloquently discussed by Senator Cleo Fields on the floor of the Senate, only five Black members from Louisiana have been elected and seated in the United States House of Representatives since statehood. This injustice cannot continue.

This veto need not be the conclusion of the Legislature's efforts to create a map that is in compliance with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. There are multiple pre-filed bills for the 2022 Regular Session where the Legislature can - and should - enact a map that creates a second majority minority seat. By vetoing this bill, I am asking the Legislature to get back to work in a real effort at compromise and fairness. I remain confident that the Legislature can get this right.

Sincerely,

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
Governor

Lies over under the rules.

Suspension of the Rules

Rep. Stefanski moved to suspended the rules to take up a vetoed bill on the same day it was returned, which motion was agreed to.

Suspension of the Rules

On motion of Rep. Stefanski, the rules were suspended in order to take up and consider Reconsideration of Vetoed Bills at this time.

Reconsideration of Vetoed Bills

The following vetoed bills were taken up, reconsidered, and acted upon as follows:

HOUSE BILL NO. 1—
BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHEXNAYDER, BEAULLIEU, DESHOTEL, FARNUM, HODGES, HORTON, MAGEE, AND STEFANSKI

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 18:1276 and to repeal R.S. 18:1276.1, relative to congressional districts; to provide for the redistricting of Louisiana's congressional districts; to provide with respect to positions and offices, other than congressional, which are based upon congressional districts; to provide for the effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Rep. Stefanski moved the passage of the bill subsequent to the Governor's veto.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. Speaker	Frieman	Mincey
Adams	Gadberry	Muscarello
Amedee	Garofalo	Nelson
Bacala	Geymann	Orgeron
Bagley	Goudeau	Owen, C.
Beaullieu	Harris	Owen, R.
Bishop	Hilferty	Pressly
Bourriaque	Hodges	Riser
Butler	Hollis	Romero
Carrier	Horton	Schamerhorn
Coussan	Huval	Schlegel
Crews	Illg	Seabaugh
Davis	Ivey	St. Blanc
Deshotel	Johnson, M.	Stagni
DeVillier	Kerner	Stefanski
DuBuisson	Mack	Tarver
Echols	Magee	Thomas
Edmonds	Marino	Thompson
Edmonston	McCormick	Turner
Emerson	McFarland	Villio
Farnum	McKnight	Wheat
Firment	McMahen	White
Fontenot	Miguez	Wright
Freiberg	Miller, G.	Zeringue

Total - 72

NAYS

Boyd	Gaines	Lyons
Brass	Glover	Marcelle
Brown	Green	Miller, D.
Bryant	Hughes	Moore
Carpenter	Jefferson	Newell
Carter, W.	Jenkins	Phelps
Cormier	Johnson, T.	Pierre
Cox	Jordan	Selders
Duplessis	LaCombe	Willard
Fisher	Landry	
Freeman	Larvadain	

Total - 31

ABSENT

Carter, R.

Total - 1

The bill, having received a two-thirds vote of the elected members, was passed subsequent to the Governor's veto.

Suspension of the Rules

On motion of Rep. Stefanski, the rules were suspended in order to take up and consider Petitions, Memorials, and Communications at this time.

Petitions, Memorials, and Communications

The following petitions, memorials, and communications were received and read:

Message from the Senate

RELATIVE TO A GUBERNATORIAL VETO

March 30, 2022

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives:

I am directed to inform your honorable body that the Senate has passed House Bill No. 1 subsequent to the Gubernatorial Veto.

Respectfully submitted,

YOLANDA J. DIXON
Secretary of the Senate

Message from the Senate

Relative to Adjournment

March 30, 2022

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives:

I am directed to inform your honorable body that the Senate has consented to adjourn Sine Die prior to the end of the 5th day and asks that the House of Representatives do the same.

Respectfully submitted,

YOLANDA J. DIXON
Secretary of the Senate

Motion

Rep. Stefanski moved to consent to adjourn Sine Die prior to the end of the 5th day, which motion was agreed to.

Motion

On motion of Rep. Stefanski, the Speaker appointed the following special committee to notify the Governor that the House has completed its labors and is prepared to adjourn *sine die*: Reps. Beaullieu, Butler, Carpenter, Geymann and Selders.

Motion

On motion of Rep. Stefanski, the Speaker appointed the following special committee to notify the Senate that the House has completed its labors and is prepared to adjourn *sine die*: Reps. DeVillier, DuBuisson, Larvadain, Moore and Charles Owen.

Reports of Special Committees

The special committee appointed to notify the Governor that the House had completed its labors and was prepared to adjourn *sine die* reported that it had performed that duty.

The special committee appointed to notify the Senate that the House had completed its labors and was prepared to adjourn *sine die* reported that it had performed that duty.

The Speaker thanked and discharged the committees.

Committee from the Senate

A special committee from the Senate notified the House that the Senate has completed its labors and is prepared to adjourn *sine die*.

The Speaker thanked and dismissed the committee.

Leave of Absence

Rep. Robert Carter - 1 day

Adjournment

On motion of Rep. Thompson, at 2:15 P.M., the House agreed to adjourn *sine die*.

The Speaker of the House declared the House adjourned *sine die*.

MICHELLE D. FONTENOT
Clerk of the House

ANGELA S. SMITH
Assistant Clerk of the House / Journal Clerk