THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL
OF THE
SENATE
OF THE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

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

Senate Chamber
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

The Senate was called to order at 12:05 o'clock P.M. by Hon. Patrick Page Cortez, President of the Senate.

Morning Hour

CONVENING ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT

Mr. President	Foil	Peacock
Abraham	Hensgens	Pope
Allain	Hewitt	Price
Barrow	Lambert	Reese
Bernard	Luneau	Smith
Boudreaux	McMath	Stine
Cathey	Milligan	Talbot
Cloud	Mills, F.	Ward
Connick	Mills, R.	White
Fesi	Mizell	Womack
Fields	Morris	
Total - 32		

ABSENT

Bouie	Henry	Tarver
Carter	Jackson	
Harris	Peterson	
Total - 7		

The President of the Senate announced there were 32 Senators present and a quorum.

Prayer

The prayer was offered by Senator Louie Bernard, following which the Senate joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Reading of the Journal

On motion of Senator Talbot, the reading of the Journal was dispensed with and the Journal of March 29, 2022, was adopted.

Petitions, Memorials and Communications

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

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR
STATE OF LOUISIANA

March 10, 2022

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

Honorable Patrick Page Cortez
President of Louisiana Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9183

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 Bill 2 and 3) and submitted them to the Secretary of State.

Sincerely,
JOHN BEL EDWARDS
Governor

Appointment of Committee

The President appointed a committee of five to notify the House of Representatives that the Senate is now duly convened and organized and prepared to transact such business as may be brought before it.

The President of the Senate appointed the following Committee:

Senators Bouie,
Carter,
Cathey,
Henry,
Hensgens.

The President appointed a committee of five to act with such a Committee as the House of Representatives may appoint to notify the Governor that the Legislature is now duly convened and organized and prepared to receive such communications as he may desire to lay before it.

The President of the Senate appointed the following Committee:

Senators Barrow,
Harris,
Hewitt,
Peacock,
Talbot.

Reports of Committees

The Committee appointed to notify the Governor that the Senate had convened and was prepared to transact business reported it had performed that duty. The President of the Senate thanked the Committee and discharged it.

The Committee appointed to notify the House of Representatives that the Senate had convened and was prepared to transact business reported it had performed that duty. The President of the Senate thanked the Committee and discharged it.

Exhibit
LEG_54

Committee from the House of Representatives

A Committee from the House of Representatives appeared before the Bar of the Senate and informed the Senate that the House of Representatives was organized and ready to proceed with business.

Petitions, Memorials and Communications

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

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR
STATE OF LOUISIANA

March 9, 2022

Honorable Page Cortez
President of Louisiana Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9183

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 5 of the 2022 First Extraordinary Session

Dear President Cortez:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 5 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2022.

The 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,
JON BEL EDWARDS
Governor

Motion

Senator Hewitt moved to reconsider the bill.

SENATE BILL NO. 5—
BY SENATOR HEWITT

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.

Motion

On motion of Senator Hewitt, Senate Bill No. 5 was returned to the calendar, Subject to Call.

Message from the House Relative to Gubernatorial Veto

March 30, 2022

To the Honorable President and Members of the Senate:

I am directed to inform your honorable body that the House of Representatives has passed HB No. 1 subsequent to the Gubernatorial Veto.

Respectfully submitted,
MICHELLE D. FONTENOT
Clerk of the House of Representatives

Petitions, Memorials and Communications

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

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR
STATE OF LOUISIANA

March 9, 2022

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

The 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,
JON BEL EDWARDS
Governor

Motion

Senator Hewitt moved to reconsider the bill.

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.

Senator Hewitt moved to pass House Bill No. 1 subsequent to the Governor's veto.

Senator Peterson objected.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. President	Henry	Morris
Abraham	Hensgens	Peacock
Allain	Hewitt	Pope
Bernard	Lambert	Reese
Cathey	McMath	Stine
Cloud	Milligan	Talbot
Connick	Mills, F.	Ward
Fesi	Mills, R.	White
Foil	Mizell	Womack

Total - 27

NAYS

Barrow	Fields	Peterson
Boudreaux	Harris	Price
Bouie	Jackson	Smith
Carter	Luneau	

Total - 11

ABSENT

Tarver

Total - 1

The Chair declared the bill was passed subsequent to the Governor's veto. Senator Hewitt moved to reconsider the vote by which House Bill No. 1 was passed subsequent to the Governor's veto and laid that motion on the table.

Message from the House Relative to Adjournment

March 30, 2022

To the Honorable President and Members of the Senate:

I am directed to inform your honorable body that the House of Representatives has consented to adjourn sine die prior to the end of the 5th day of this veto session and is requesting your body to do the same.

Respectfully submitted,
MICHELLE D. FONTENOT
Clerk of the House of Representatives

Motion

Senator Talbot moved that the Senate adjourn Sine Die prior to the end of the fifth day and asks the House to do the same.

Appointment of Committee

The President appointed a committee of five to serve with a like committee from the House of Representatives to notify the Governor that the Legislature of the State of Louisiana has completed its labors and is now ready to adjourn sine die.

The President of the Senate appointed the following Committee:

Senators Bouie,
Carter,
Cathey,
Henry, and
Hensgens.

The President appointed a committee of five to notify the House of Representatives that the Senate has completed its labors and is not ready to adjourn sine die.

The President of the Senate appointed the following Committee:

Senators Barrow,
Harris,
Hewitt,
Lambert, and
Talbot.

Reports of Committees

The committee to notify the Governor that the Senate had completed its labors and was ready to adjourn sine die returned and reported it had performed that duty. The President of the Senate thanked the committee and discharged it.

The committee to notify the House of Representatives that the Senate had completed its labors and was ready to adjourn sine die returned and reported it had performed that duty. The President of the Senate thanked the committee and discharged it.

Committee from the House of Representatives

A committee from the House of Representatives appeared before the Bar of the Senate and informed the Senate that the House of Representatives was ready to adjourn sine die.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mr. President	Foil	Morris
Abraham	Harris	Peacock
Allain	Henry	Peterson
Barrow	Hensgens	Pope
Bernard	Hewitt	Price
Boudreaux	Jackson	Reese
Bouie	Lambert	Smith
Carter	Luneau	Stine
Cathey	McMath	Talbot
Cloud	Milligan	Ward
Connick	Mills, F.	White
Fesi	Mills, R.	Womack
Fields	Mizell	

Total - 38

ABSENT

Tarver

Total - 1

Leaves of Absence

The following leaves of absence were asked for and granted:

Tarver 1 Day

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Talbot, at 2:15 o'clock P.M. the Senate adjourned sine die.

The President of the Senate declared the Senate adjourned Sine Die.

YOLANDA J. DIXON
Secretary of the Senate

FRAN OGNIBENE
Journal Clerk