

EXHIBIT

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1 LEGISLATIVE HISTORY - TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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8 VIDEO RECORDING
9 of
10 Senate Bills 7003, 7004, 7006
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23 Reported by:
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I N D E X

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SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

May 6, 2026

(WHEREUPON, on the above date, there came up for consideration in the Senate Judiciary Committee Senate Bills 7003, 7004, and 7006. Discussion pertaining to this bill was as follows:)

CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: The Judiciary Committee will now be called to order.

Madam Secretary, call the roll, please.

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Akbari.

SENATOR AKBARI: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Is present.

Senator Harshbarger.

SENATOR HARSHBARGER: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Is present.

Senator Lamar.

SENATOR LAMAR: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Is present.

Senator Pody.

SENATOR PODY: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Is present.

Senator Roberts.

SENATOR ROBERTS: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Is present.

Senator Rose.

1 SENATOR ROSE: Here.

2 MADAM SECRETARY: Is present.

3 Senator Seal.

4 SENATOR SEAL: Present.

5 MADAM SECRETARY: Is present.

6 Senator Stevens.

7 SENATOR STEVENS: Present.

8 MADAM SECRETARY: Is present.

9 Senator Taylor.

10 SENATOR TAYLOR: Present.

11 MADAM SECRETARY: Is present.

12 Senator White.

13 SENATOR WHITE: Present.

14 MADAM SECRETARY: Is present.

15 Chairman Gardenhire.

16 CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: Present.

17 MADAM SECRETARY: Is present.

18 Chairman, you have 11 members.

19 CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: Thank you.

20 Does anybody have any personal privilege

21 or introductions you would like to make? I see

22 none.

23 I do want to make -- one of my cousins

24 from Shelby County, from Memphis, is here, Anne

25 Butterfield Hawkins, sitting right over there. She

1 drove all the way up, and I hope just to see me in
2 action, but I think she just was interested in the
3 process we're going through.

4 I think everybody has received color
5 copies of the map. That's going to save Senator
6 Seal a lot of problems. I don't think he brought
7 his colored crayons with him, so we already got it
8 fixed up for you.

9 Let's move to the calendar. Number 1,
10 Senate Bill 7003, Leader Johnson is carrying that, I
11 believe.

12 Is he in the cloakroom? If he is, would
13 somebody ask him to come out?

14 Before he does, I'm going to -- there's
15 hardly anybody in here. I don't think anybody else
16 is coming in, so I can suspense with reading of the
17 rules of the committee that I have. So I don't
18 think I have to worry about that.

19 Leader Johnson, you are now recognized
20 on Senate Bill 7003.

21 SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you,
22 Mr. Chairman and Members.

23 That is -- that is a backup bill that we
24 don't intend to use, so if I could have you move
25 that to the heel of the calendar, and depending on

1 what happens with some other bills on your calendar,
2 that will go to General Sub.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So to the heel.

4 CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: Move to the heel?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

6 CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: All right. Move
7 to the heel of this committee, right?

8 SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, sir. Thank you,
9 sir.

10 CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: Thank you.

11 Next on the agenda is Senate Bill 7004
12 by -- Senator Stevens is carrying that.

13 Senator Stevens, you are recognized on
14 Senate Bill 7004.

15 SENATOR STEVENS: Thank you,
16 Mr. Chairman, Members.

17 There are 535 members of Congress, which
18 divides into 100 senators and 435 members of the
19 House of Representatives. This legislation, which
20 is really a map today, is the proposed district
21 lines for nine of -- members, which are the
22 Tennessee representatives in the House of
23 Representatives.

24 Tennessee is a conservative state. When
25 our congressional representation in Washington

1 should reflect that, this map ensures that.

2 And with that, I'll make a motion on the
3 bill.

4 SENATOR ROSE: Seconded.

5 CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: Motions have been
6 made by Senator Stevens, seconded by -- by Senator
7 Rose.

8 Is there any amendments to this? Does
9 this stand alone?

10 MR. STEVENS: It's the map. The
11 language is being drafted for the amendment, but for
12 now, we're going to -- like we do in the Finance
13 Committee, before the language of the budget
14 amendment is finalized, oftentimes we will pass out
15 the schedule, which is just the numbers. And so,
16 for this purpose today, we're passing out the map as
17 the actual language is being completed.

18 CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: Okay. Leader
19 Akbari, you're recognized.

20 SENATOR AKBARI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 I need a point of clarification. So are we saying
22 we do not have an actual amendment before us to vote
23 on?

24 CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: Senator Stevens,
25 would you like to --

1 Memphis sits, no knowledge of Shelby County, and
2 where their border lies.

3 Okay. How long did this process take?

4 MR. STEPHENS: The call -- thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman. And I apologize. I haven't said
6 thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 The -- and I may be -- we may be just
8 going back and forth rather than our
9 normal procedure.

10 SENATOR LAMAR: I would appreciate his
11 cooperation.

12 SENATOR STEVENS: The map took, you
13 know, however long it's been since Governor Lee
14 called us into special session.

15 SENATOR LAMAR: Was the public given the
16 opportunity to review or provide input before these
17 lines were finalized or proposed?

18 SENATOR STEVENS: These -- these are
19 the -- the maps are -- between Senator Johnson and
20 I, we drew the maps. We had interaction with the
21 House of Representatives as well.

22 SENATOR LAMAR: So you're establishing
23 that, before these maps were drawn, you-all took no
24 effort into hearing from the public to have their
25 input before these lines were drawn?

1 SENATOR STEVENS: The public is -- is
2 getting their opportunity at this moment because the
3 maps are not finalized due to the compressed nature.

4 SENATOR LAMAR: Okay. So is it true
5 that you could have conducted this redistricting map
6 while we were in session a couple of weeks ago?

7 SENATOR STEVENS: I presume so, yes.

8 SENATOR LAMAR: Why are we redistricting
9 now during the special session when we had the
10 opportunity to do it just a few weeks ago?

11 SENATOR STEPHENS: Well, that's a very
12 long answer.

13 SENATOR LAMAR: I got time.

14 SENATOR STEVENS: New York state had 62
15 counties. In the 2024 presidential election, Donald
16 Trump won 46 of New York's 62 counties. Kamala
17 Harris won 16 counties, including the boroughs of
18 New York City, which are counties, and carried the
19 state with about 55.7 percent of the vote to Donald
20 Trump's 43.1 percent, securing its electoral votes.

21 Following the 2020 census, New York lost
22 a congressional seat and its independent
23 redistricting commission attempted to draw a new
24 map. However, they could not reach an agreement on
25 the map, and the Democratic-dominated New York state

1 legislature drew their own congressional map.

2 In April of 2022, in the lead-up to the
3 '22 midterms, the New York State Court of Appeals
4 struck down the map as unconstitutional. It failed
5 to follow the proper procedures. The Court then
6 appointed an independent special master to create a
7 new map.

8 In 2022, the house election in New York,
9 under the new map, the Republican party flipped
10 three seats, bringing the new map seat count to 15
11 for the Democrats and 11 held by Republicans.

12 In March 2023, New York Democrats
13 challenged the new map, deeming it incorrect for the
14 Court to draw the map, claiming that the job lies
15 solely with the legislature and that the independent
16 redistricting commission held the sole authority.

17 In July of 2023, an intermediate
18 appellate court ruled that the independent
19 redistricting commission must create another new map
20 for the 2024 house elections.

21 The New York state Republicans
22 challenged the ruling of the Court of Appeals, who
23 ruled, on December 12, 2023, that the maps must be
24 redrawn by the legislature and the independent
25 redistricting commission for the 2024 elections.

1 On February 24th, 20 -- on
2 February 27th, excuse me, 2024, the New York state
3 legislature voted to reject the bipartisan map and
4 instead favored redrawing the map drawn by
5 Democrats.

6 On February 28, 2024, the state
7 legislature passed a new map, resulting with the
8 3rd, 18th, and 22nd congressional districts becoming
9 more Democratic while the first became more
10 Republican. The map was signed by the governor on
11 the same day.

12 More recently, on August 14th, 2025,
13 Governor Gavin Newsome, in a mid-decade
14 redistricting effort, called for a special election
15 on November 4th, 2025, Proposition 50, that would
16 temporarily allow the legislature to draw new
17 congressional maps favoring Democrats, bypassing the
18 independent citizens redistricting commission that
19 is enshrined in Article 21 of the California
20 Constitution.

21 The California Constitution says that
22 the citizens redistricting commission is assigned
23 responsibility to redistrict after each decennial
24 census. It requires the commission to be created no
25 later than December 31 in years ending in zero. It

1 has 14 members, five democrats, five Republicans,
2 and four from neither party.

3 Mandates of the redistricting criteria
4 for drawing districts, equal population, contiguity,
5 compactness, communities of interest, and no
6 favoritism towards incumbents or parties. Those are
7 requirements by the California Constitution.

8 It requires an open, transparent
9 process. It was specifically approved by two ballot
10 propositions in 2008 and 2010, moving the drawing of
11 district lines from the legislature to the
12 Independent Commission in an effort to take politics
13 out of drawing lines.

14 Proposition 50 replaced the
15 commission-drawn maps with new maps drawn by the
16 Democrat supermajority in the state legislature.
17 These new maps only apply for 2026, '28, and 2030.
18 The constitutional independent citizen redistricting
19 commission will revert back to power after the 2030
20 election.

21 Proposition 50 also relaxed the
22 redistricting criteria to only follow federal
23 criteria, meaning equal population and compliance
24 with the Voting Rights Act, not the more strict
25 state criteria. Thus, in California, the state

1 legislature did not have any constitutional
2 authority to directly change the district lines,
3 unlike Texas, where the legislature controls
4 district lines.

5 According to Ballotpedia, Proposition
6 50 is a Democratic redrawing of maps, several
7 congressional districts, to incorporate larger
8 shares of urban and suburban Democratic voters,
9 increasing Democrat registration advantages in
10 competitive districts and converting several
11 Republican-leaning seats into Democrat-leaning
12 seats.

13 Nonpartisan observers saw it as an
14 example of aggressive, quote -- this is a quote.
15 Nathaniel -- not to say his name wrong --
16 R-A-K-I-C-H described the California maps as "an
17 aggressive Democratic gerrymander" that will result
18 in double the bias in the current maps as a result
19 of simultaneously cracking Republican districts and
20 unpacking an -- extremely Democratic districts
21 through absorbing more Republican seats. It targets
22 five Republican incumbents. It decreases the
23 competitiveness of seven swing districts held by
24 democrats.

25 Further, in Virginia, Virginia voters

1 recently passed a constitutional amendment allowing
2 Democrats to temporarily redraw the Commonwealth's
3 congressional map, setting them up to flip four
4 seats this November.

5 But Democrats were ultimately -- from
6 the Cook Political Report, "but Democrats were
7 ultimately successful in convincing their voters to
8 back a temporary map that will put Republicans at an
9 even greater risk of losing the House of
10 Representatives this fall. Under the new map,
11 Democrats are favored in 10 of this state's 11
12 seats, leaving just one deep-red district in
13 southwest Virginia. Currently, the delegation is
14 evenly split," six-five -- "six Democrats, five
15 Republicans."

16 As of today, as far as I'm aware, the
17 Virginia redistricting referendum remained
18 uncertified and blocked by court order, with the
19 Virginia Supreme Court actively weighing challenges
20 to the voter-approved constitutional amendment.

21 For more background, in '25/'26, the
22 Democrat-controlled Virginia General Assembly
23 advanced a legislative-referred constitutional
24 amendment to enable a mid-decade congressional
25 restricting. This is aimed to implement a new map

1 favoring Democrats, potentially shifting several
2 seats ahead of the 2026 midterms. Voters narrowly
3 approved the measure in a special statewide election
4 on April 21st, 2026.

5 Republicans have challenged the process
6 on procedural grounds, arguing that the violations
7 of the constitutional requirements, timing of
8 special elections, public notice, scope of
9 legislative sessions, [unintelligible] language.

10 It has been -- so that is -- that is no
11 certification yet. It is -- it is pending. And
12 I -- I'll stop there.

13 So I hope that answers your question.

14 SENATOR LAMAR: Am -- am I able to
15 finish? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 It did not answer my question. I do
17 want to reiterate, why are we doing this now during
18 a special session when, through all the things that
19 you've named, all of these things could have been
20 done during regular session? Why are we doing this
21 after regular session has already concluded?

22 CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: Senator Stevens.

23 SENATOR STEVENS: There is an election
24 this fall of who's going to control the House of
25 Representatives. That's why. We want Republicans

1 to maintain control of the House of Representatives.

2 SENATOR LAMAR: Thank you.

3 My next one. In 2022, when the maps
4 were considered the first time, this body held
5 months of public hearing.

6 Why did you not hold public hearing this
7 time for this new map like we did in 2022?

8 SENATOR STEVENS: Timing. We're having
9 the public hearings right now.

10 SENATOR LAMAR: Why would -- was -- in
11 2022, people were allowed to submit their own maps
12 for consideration. Why were they not given an
13 opportunity to submit their own maps now?

14 SENATOR STEVENS: Going back, I mean,
15 the governor called us in to special session. This
16 is not called by the -- by the legislature. The
17 governor called us in to special session. We're
18 compelled by the Constitution to be in special
19 session.

20 SENATOR LAMAR: So you are aware that,
21 by calling this special session to do this, the
22 qualifying deadline has already passed, correct?

23 SENATOR STEVENS: There's -- I believe
24 one of the bills deals with that.

25 SENATOR LAMAR: I'm saying, before we

1 came to special session, were you aware that the
2 qualifying deadline has already passed?

3 SENATOR STEVENS: As I've said, the --
4 the legislation that's proposed, in state and local,
5 I believe addresses that.

6 CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: Senator Lamar,
7 it -- it's about time to wrap -- wrap it up. I've
8 given you plenty of time. And so other people may
9 have questions from the panel.

10 SENATOR LAMAR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Yes, go ahead.

12 CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: Leader Akbari.

13 SENATOR AKBARI: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
14 and I have a few questions as well.

15 To the sponsor, when this body
16 considered the 2022 congressional map, was race a
17 factor in determining the boundaries of the
18 9th Congressional District?

19 SENATOR STEVENS: I have no -- race is
20 not a -- we are moving forward in proposing new
21 congressional potential maps with the intent to
22 mitigate any potential risk there is of litigation.

23 SENATOR AKBARI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 I will ask that question again, because
25 I wanted to make sure you fully understood what I

1 was saying.

2 When this body considered the 2022
3 congressional map, was race a factor in determining
4 the boundaries of the Congressional 9th District?
5 That is a yes-or-no question.

6 SENATOR STEVENS: And -- and I
7 appreciate --

8 SENATOR AKBARI: Or "I don't know."
9 That is an [unintelligible] answer.

10 SENATOR STEVENS: As an attorney, I
11 appreciate leading questions. But as I've said, my
12 response is, this map is reducing the risk of future
13 legal challenges, protecting the state from costly
14 litigation. That's my response.

15 CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: Senator Akbari.

16 SENATOR AKBARI: So -- Mr. Chair, thank
17 you.

18 So it seems like your answer is saying
19 that race was a factor, so if that was the case,
20 then why was a Congressional 9th District not drawn
21 now as a majority-minority district?

22 SENATOR STEVENS: You're attempting to
23 put words in my mouth that I'm not saying.

24 SENATOR AKBARI: Okay. So if race
25 wasn't a factor -- thank you, Mr. Sponsor -- then

1 why does this Congressional 9th District need to be
2 changed right now?

3 SENATOR STEVENS: Again, we were called
4 in to special session. We have a constitutional
5 obligation to be in special session regarding the
6 call that the governor put forward.

7 We are attempting to maximize the
8 chances that the congressional delegation of
9 Tennessee will maintain a Republican majority in the
10 United States House of Representatives. That's our
11 intent.

12 CHAIRMAN GARDENHIRE: Senator Akbari.

13 SENATOR AKBARI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 And so I believe you said earlier that
15 you wanted to avoid a future lawsuit. Was that in
16 reference to the maps as drawn prior to the Callais
17 decision? Are you intimating that you believe that
18 the maps, after the Callais decision, as they exist
19 now, could result in a lawsuit?

20 SENATOR STEVENS: As I said, I've
21 answered that question at least twice already.

22 SENATOR AKBARI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 I don't agree with that, but I will move on.

24 Did you consider -- since you and Leader
25 Johnson apparently created these maps, did you

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Julie Lyle, Registered Professional
Reporter and Tennessee Licensed Court Reporter, do
hereby certify:

1. Being a Court Reporter, I transcribed
the video stenographically to the best of my skills
and ability, and the foregoing pages contain a full,
true, and accurate transcript of said stenographic
notes then and there taken;

SIGNED this 9th day of May, 2026.

Julie Lyle
Tennessee LCR No. 850, Exp: 6/30/26