

1 State of Arkansas  
2 83rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2001

*As Engrossed: H2/1/01*

HCR 1009

4  
5 By: Representative Shoffner  
6 By: Senator Gwatney

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9 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

10 TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING.

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12 **Subtitle**

13 TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR CONGRESSIONAL  
14 REDISTRICTING.

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16 WHEREAS, criteria adopted by both houses of the General Assembly would  
17 be useful in evaluating proposals for Congressional redistricting; and

18 WHEREAS, sound criteria based on interpretation by the courts of  
19 constitutional provisions and federal statutes provide guidance to the  
20 membership of the Arkansas General Assembly while performing congressional  
21 redistricting.

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23 NOW THEREFORE,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD GENERAL  
25 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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27 THAT the following guidelines are adopted for use in congressional  
28 redistricting by the General Assembly:

29 (1) EQUAL REPRESENTATION

30 (A) Equality of population of congressional districts insofar as  
31 is practicable shall be the goal of congressional *redistricting*.

32 (B) Deviations from the "ideal district population" shall be  
33 justifiable only when it is the result of a limitation of geography, or the  
34 result of the promotion of a preferred constitutionally acceptable state  
35 policy.

36 (2) POPULATION DATA

The total state population and the population of defined sub-units as reported to the state by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, as the official census information collected under P.L. 94-171 for the 2000 Federal Decennial Census shall be the exclusive permissible data base for congressional redistricting.

(3) DI STRI CTS

(A) Only single-member congressional districts are acceptable.

(B) The General Assembly acknowledges a preference for continuity in representation.

(C) County lines, cities, and established geographical boundaries should be maintained, if possible.

#### (4) MINORITY VOTING STRENGTH AND PARTICIPATION

(A) The dilution of voting strength and participation by recognized minorities within the state population is contrary to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the U. S. Constitution, and the public policy of the State of Arkansas.

(B) The right of meaningful political participation of all citizens is desired and recognized.

(C) Therefore, any plan or proposed amendment to a plan having the objective of diluting the voting strength of minority citizens shall be unacceptable.

(5) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(A) The General Assembly actively seeks public participation in all deliberations concerning congressional redistricting.

(B) Notices of all committee meetings in which proposed legislation concerning congressional redistricting will be considered by the committees shall be provided and posted in accordance with the current rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(C) All interested parties are encouraged to appear before the committees during the legislative hearings on proposed plans to provide input regarding congressional redistricting.

/s/ Shoffner