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November 16, 2021

By: Treat and Paxton

An Act relating to elections; amending 14 O.S. 2021, Section 80.35.17, which relates to operative date for state Senate districts; modifying application of State Senate Redistricting Act of 2021 to certain elections; amending 19 O.S. 2021, Section 321, which relates to county commissioners' districts; modifying application of reapportioned county commissioners' districts to certain elections; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 14 O.S. 2021, Section 80.35.17, is amended to read as follows:

Section 80.35.17. The Senate districts described herein shall become operative on the fifteenth day following the General Election in November 2022; provided, however, the State Election Board and appropriate county election boards shall conduct ~~the~~ regular or special elections for the Senate ~~in~~ held after April 5, 2022, in accordance with the provisions of the State Senate Redistricting Act of 2021.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2021, Section 321, is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 321. A. Each county shall be divided by the board of
2 county commissioners into three (3) compact districts, as equal in
3 population as practicable and numbered respectively one, two and
4 three. One commissioner shall be elected from each of the districts
5 by the voters of the district, as provided for by law.

6 B. 1. Each county shall be reapportioned by the board of
7 county commissioners on or before October 1 following the final
8 official publication of the Federal Decennial Census to this state
9 for the purposes of legislative redistricting. Provided, for
10 purposes of the 2021 reapportionment of counties, each county shall
11 be reapportioned by the board of county commissioners on or before
12 November 30, 2021, following the final official publication of the
13 Federal Decennial Census to this state for the purposes of
14 legislative redistricting. The reapportionment shall be recorded in
15 a resolution adopted by the commissioners. The resolution shall
16 include an effective date for the reapportioned county commissioner
17 districts. The effective date shall be January 1 of the following
18 year; provided, however, county election boards shall conduct
19 regular or special elections for county commissioner held after
20 April 5, 2022, in accordance with the reapportioned districts.

21 2. Beginning with the reapportionment following the 1990
22 Federal Decennial Census, all boundaries of county commissioner
23 districts shall follow clearly visible, definable and observable
24 physical boundaries which are based upon criteria established and

1 recognized by the Bureau of the Census of the United States
2 Department of Commerce for purposes of defining census blocks for
3 its decennial census.

4 3. If the commissioners fail to reapportion the county as
5 required by this subsection, the commissioners shall be subject to
6 the provisions of Sections 91 through 105 of Title 51 of the
7 Oklahoma Statutes and it shall be the duty of the county excise
8 board to perform the reapportionment.

9 C. There is hereby established a depository for county
10 commissioner district boundary maps and reapportionment resolutions
11 within the Office of Geographic Information within the Oklahoma
12 Conservation Commission.

13 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
14 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
15 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
16 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING
18 November 16, 2021 - DO PASS
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