

Senate Bill 3EX

By: Senator Echols of the 49th, Kennedy of the 18th, Gooch of the 51st, Robertson of the 29th, Brass of the 28th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide for the composition and number of congressional districts; to provide for a short
2 title; to provide for the contingent nature of this Act and the circumstances under which it
3 shall or shall not apply, according to the enforceability of prior provisions under federal law;
4 to provide for the continuation of present members of the United States House of
5 Representatives; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Georgia Congressional Redistricting Act
10 of 2023."

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 (a) As used in this Act, the term "2021 Congressional redistricting plan" means the
13 congressional districts as described in the Georgia Congressional Redistricting Act of 2021,
14 approved December 30, 2021 (Ga. L. 2021, Ex. Sess., p. 251).

S. B. 3EX

15 (b) If, as of 60 days prior to the first day of qualifying for nomination or election for
16 Georgia's entire delegation to the United States House of Representatives in 2024 or any
17 future year, the 2021 Congressional redistricting plan may lawfully be implemented
18 pursuant to court order or otherwise, then qualifying for Georgia's entire delegation to the
19 United States House of Representatives in 2024 or such future year and the ensuing
20 elections shall be conducted according to the 2021 Congressional redistricting plan; and
21 this Act shall not apply to such qualifying or elections or otherwise be of any further force
22 or effect.

23 (c) If, as of 60 days prior to the first day of qualifying for nomination or election for
24 Georgia's entire delegation to the United States House of Representatives in 2024 or any
25 future year, the 2021 Congressional redistricting plan may not lawfully be implemented,
26 then qualifying for Georgia's entire delegation to the United States House of
27 Representatives in 2024 or such future year and the ensuing elections shall be conducted
28 according to the Congressional redistricting plan provided for in this Act.

29 (d) Notwithstanding any provisions of subsections (b) or (c) to the contrary, any special
30 election to fill a vacancy in Georgia's delegation to the United States House of
31 Representatives occurring after enactment of this Act shall use the same Georgia
32 congressional redistricting plan in place during the immediately preceding regular election.
33 Except for the initial adoption of the Congressional redistricting plan provided for in
34 Section 3 of this Act, it is the intention of the General Assembly that any alteration or
35 amendment to the composition of congressional districts provided for in this Act shall only
36 apply to subsequent elections for Georgia's entire delegation to the United States House of
37 Representatives and that the congressional redistricting plan used for the regular election
38 of the entire delegation shall apply for the entire Congress elected at such regular election.

39 (e) This Act does not repeal or amend the provisions of the Georgia Congressional
40 Redistricting Act of 2021 or the 2021 Congressional redistricting plan; and those

41 provisions are merely suspended pending a final determination of their enforceability by
42 the federal judiciary.

43 **SECTION 3.**

44 (a) Subject to the provisions of Section 2 of this Act, for the purpose of electing members
45 of the House of Representatives of the United States, the State of Georgia is divided into 14
46 congressional districts. Such congressional districts shall be and correspond to those 14
47 numbered districts described in Appendix A, incorporated into and made a part of this Act
48 and further identified as "User: TBD Plan Name: TBD Plan Type: Congress".

49 (b) For the purposes of such plan:

50 (1) The term "VTD" shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as
51 provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census
52 of 2020 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district
53 description which are underneath a "VTD" heading shall mean and describe individual
54 Blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United
55 States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia; and

56 (2) Whenever the description of any congressional district refers to a named county
57 without any additional VTD, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that county as
58 shown on the census maps for the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State
59 of Georgia.

60 (c) Any part of the State of Georgia which is not included in any congressional district
61 described in subsection (a) of this section shall be included within that district contiguous
62 to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial
63 census of 2020 for the State of Georgia.

64 (d) Any part of the State of Georgia which is described in subsection (a) of this section as
65 being included in a particular congressional district shall nevertheless not be included
66 within such congressional district if such part is not contiguous to such congressional

67 district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included within that congressional
68 district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United
69 States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia.

70 (e) The members of the House of Representatives of the United States elected in 2022
71 shall continue to serve for the term of office to which they were elected.

72 (f) Subject to Section 2 of this Act, any special election to fill a vacancy in the 118th
73 Congress shall use the composition of districts provided for in this Act.

74 **SECTION 4.**

75 Subject to the provisions of Section 2 of this Act, this Act shall become effective upon its
76 approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval and shall apply
77 to future elections for the Georgia Congressional delegation to the extent provided for in
78 Section 2 of this Act.

79 **SECTION 5.**

80 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

81

APPENDIX A

82 User: TBD

83 Plan Name: TBD

84 Plan Type: Congress