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Replace line 19 on page 1 with the following:

thereafter, until the release of the next federal census; and to provide Legislative findings.

After line 20 on page 1 insert the following new section and renumber the remaining sections accordingly:

Section 1. Section 17-14-70.1 is added to the Code of Alabama 1975. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

§17-14-70.1

(1) The Legislature adheres to traditional redistricting principles when adopting congressional districts. Such principles are the product of history, tradition, bipartisan consensus, and legal precedent. The Supreme Court of the United States recently clarified that Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act "never requires adoption of districts that violate traditional redistricting principles."

(2) The Legislature's intent in adopting the



25 congressional plan in this act described in Section
26 17-14-70.1 is to comply with federal law, including
27 the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of
28 1965, as amended.

29 (3) The Legislature's intent is also to promote
30 the following traditional redistricting principles,
31 which are given effect in the plan created by this
32 act:

33 a. Districts shall be based on total population
34 as reported by the federal decennial census and shall
35 have minimal population deviation.

36 b. Districts shall be composed of contiguous
37 geography, meaning that every part of every district
38 is contiguous with every other part of the same
39 district.

40 c. Districts shall be composed of reasonably
41 compact geography.

42 d. The congressional districting plan shall
43 contain no more than six splits of county lines, which
44 is the minimum number necessary to achieve minimal
45 population deviation among the districts. Two splits
46 within one county is considered two splits of county
47 lines.

48 e. The congressional districting plan shall



49 keep together communities of interest, as further
50 provided for in subdivision (4).

51 f. The congressional districting plan shall not
52 pair incumbent members of Congress within the same
53 district.

54 g. The principles described in this subdivision
55 are non-negotiable for the Legislature. To the extent
56 the following principles can be given effect
57 consistent with the principles above, the
58 congressional districting plan shall also do all of
59 the following:

60 1. Preserve the cores of existing districts.

61 2. Minimize the number of counties in each
62 district.

63 3. Minimize splits of neighborhoods and other
64 political subdivisions in addition to minimizing the
65 splits of counties and communities of interest.

66 (4)a. A community of interest is a defined area
67 of the state that may be characterized by, among other
68 commonalities, shared economic interests, geographic
69 features, transportation infrastructure, broadcast and
70 print media, educational institutions, and historical
71 or cultural factors.

72 b. The discernment, weighing, and balancing of



73 the varied factors that contribute to communities of
74 interest is an intensely political process best
75 carried out by elected representatives of the people.

76 c. If it is necessary to divide a community of
77 interest between congressional districts to promote
78 other traditional districting principles like
79 compactness, contiguity, or equal population, division
80 into two districts is preferable to division into
81 three or more districts. Because each community of
82 interest is different, the division of one community
83 among multiple districts may be more or less
84 significant to the community than the division of
85 another community.

86 d. The Legislature declares that at least the
87 three following regions are communities of interest
88 that shall be kept together to the fullest extent
89 possible in this congressional redistricting plan: the
90 Black Belt, the Gulf Coast, and the Wiregrass.

91 e.1. Alabama's Black Belt region is a community
92 of interest composed of the following 18 core
93 counties: Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Crenshaw,
94 Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo,
95 Montgomery, Perry, Pickens, Pike, Russell, Sumter, and
96 Wilcox. Moreover, the following five counties are



97 sometimes considered part of the Black Belt: Clarke,
98 Conecuh, Escambia, Monroe, and Washington.

99 2. The Black Belt is characterized by its rural
100 geography, fertile soil, and relative poverty, which
101 have shaped its unique history and culture.

102 3. The Black Belt region spans the width of
103 Alabama from the Mississippi boarder to the Georgia
104 border.

105 4. Because the Black Belt counties cannot be
106 combined within one district without causing other
107 districts to violate the principle of equal population
108 among districts, the 18 core Black Belt counties shall
109 be placed into two reasonably compact districts, the
110 fewest number of districts in which this community of
111 interest can be placed. Moreover, of the five other
112 counties sometimes considered part of the Black Belt,
113 four of those counties are included within the two
114 Black Belt districts - Districts 2 and 7.

115 f.1. Alabama's Gulf Coast region is a community
116 of interest composed of Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

117 2. Owing to Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico
118 coastline, these counties also comprise a well-known
119 and well-defined community with a long history and
120 unique interests. Over the past half-century, Baldwin



121 and Mobile Counties have grown even more alike as the
122 tourism industry has grown and the development of
123 highways and bay-crossing bridges have made it easier
124 to commute between the two counties.

125 3. The Gulf Coast community has a shared
126 interest in tourism, which is a multi-billion-dollar
127 industry and a significant and unique economic driver
128 for the region.

129 4. Unlike other regions in the state, the Gulf
130 Coast community is home to major fishing, port, and
131 ship-building industries. Mobile has a Navy shipyard
132 and the only deep-water port in the state. The port is
133 essential for the international export of goods
134 produced in Alabama.

135 5. The Port of Mobile is the economic hub for
136 the Gulf counties. Its maintenance and further
137 development are critical for the Gulf counties in
138 particular but also for many other parts of the state.
139 The Port of Mobile handles over 55 million tons of
140 international and domestic cargo for exporters and
141 importers, delivering eighty-five billion dollars
142 (\$85,000,000,000) in economic value to the state each
143 year. Activity at the port's public and private
144 terminals directly and indirectly generates nearly



145 313,000 jobs each year.

146 6. Among the over 21,000 direct jobs generated
147 by the Port of Mobile, about 42% of the direct
148 jobholders reside in the City of Mobile, another 39%
149 reside in Mobile County but outside of the City of
150 Mobile, and another 13% reside in Baldwin County.

151 7. The University of South Alabama serves the
152 Gulf Coast community of interest both through its
153 flagship campus in Mobile and its campus in Baldwin
154 County.

155 8. Federal appropriations have been critical to
156 ensuring the port's continued growth and maintenance.
157 In 2020, the Army Corps of Engineers allocated over
158 two hundred seventy-four million dollars
159 (\$274,000,000) for the Port of Mobile to allow the
160 dredging and expansion of the port. Federal
161 appropriations have also been critical for expanding
162 bridge projects to further benefit the shared
163 interests of the region.

164 9. The Gulf Coast community has a distinct
165 culture stemming from its French and Spanish colonial
166 heritage. That heritage is reflected in the
167 celebration of shared social occasions, such as Mardi
168 Gras, which began in Mobile. This shared culture is



169 reflected in Section 1-3-8(c), Code of Alabama 1975,
170 which provides that "Mardi Gras shall be deemed a
171 holiday in Mobile and Baldwin Counties and all state
172 offices shall be closed in those counties on Mardi
173 Gras." Mardi Gras is observed as a state holiday only
174 in Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

175 10. Mobile and Baldwin Counties also work
176 together as part of the South Alabama Regional
177 Planning Commission, a regional planning commission
178 recognized by the state for more than 50 years. The
179 local governments of Mobile, Baldwin, and Escambia
180 Counties, as well as 29 municipalities within those
181 counties, work together through the commission with
182 the Congressional Representative from District 1 to
183 carry out comprehensive economic development planning
184 for the region in conjunction with the U.S. Economic
185 Development Administration. Under Section 11-85-51(b),
186 factors the Governor considers when creating such a
187 regional planning commission include "community of
188 interest and homogeneity; geographic features and
189 natural boundaries; patterns of communication and
190 transportation; patterns of urban development; total
191 population and population density; [and] similarity of
192 social and economic problems."



193 g.1. Alabama's Wiregrass region is a community
194 of interest composed of the following nine counties:
195 Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva,
196 Henry, Houston, and Pike.

197 2. The Wiregrass region is characterized by
198 rural geography, agriculture, and a major military
199 base. The Wiregrass region is home to Troy
200 University's flagship campus in Troy and its campus in
201 Dothan.

202 3. All of the Wiregrass counties are included
203 in District 2, with the exception of Covington County,
204 which is placed in District 1 so that the maximum
205 number of Black Belt counties can be included within
206 just two districts.

207
208 Replace lines 29 through 30 on page 2 with the
209 following:

210 identified and labeled as ~~Pringle Congressional~~
211 ~~Plan 1~~ Livingston Congressional Plan 2-2023, including
212 the corresponding

213

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