

By: Collier

H.B. No. 67

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing principles to govern redistricting plans enacted by the legislature.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 3, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 319A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 319A. REDISTRICTING LEGISLATION

Sec. 319A.001. PRINCIPLES GOVERNING LEGISLATIVE

REDISTRICTING. (a) In enacting legislation adopting or modifying a redistricting plan for the election of the Texas Senate, the Texas House of Representatives, the State Board of Education, or the members of the United States House of Representatives elected from this state, the legislature shall ensure that the plan, including any modifications to the plan, conforms to the following principles:

(1) a plan shall avoid unnecessarily dividing counties and municipalities in the formation of districts, and district boundaries shall to the extent practicable be coterminous with the boundaries of counties and municipalities;

(2) a plan shall to the extent practicable keep intact communities of interest defined by social, economic, racial, ethnic, cultural, industrial, commercial, and geographic commonalities;

(3) a plan must protect minority voting rights in

1 accordance with applicable state and federal constitutional and
2 statutory requirements, including the federal Voting Rights Act of
3 1965 (52 U.S.C. Section 10101 et seq.); and

4 (4) the districts in a plan must be equal in population
5 as nearly as practicable in accordance with the other principles
6 described by this subsection.

7 (b) The principle described by Subsection (a)(1) applies to
8 a plan for the election of the Texas House of Representatives in
9 addition to the requirements of Section 26, Article III, Texas
10 Constitution. District lines shall to the extent practicable be
11 coterminous with the boundaries of counties and municipalities.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect on the 91st day after the
13 last day of the legislative session.