

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

S.B. 2  
By: Seliger  
Redistricting, Select  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

There remain outstanding legal questions regarding legislatively drawn maps adopted in 2011 that threaten to undermine the stability and predictability of the electoral process in Texas. In response to this circumstance, interested parties assert the Texas Legislature should ratify, as permanent maps, the interim state house, senate, and congressional maps exactly as drawn and implemented by the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas on February 28, 2012, which the court presumably ordered because they comply with the federal Voting Rights Act and the United States Constitution. Adopting these interim maps may avoid further expenditures of time and money, by all parties, in conjunction with ongoing litigation regarding the state house, senate, and congressional redistricting plans enacted by the 82nd Legislature. It may also avoid disruption to future election cycles and provides certainty to Texans regarding their legislative districts and the electoral process.

S.B. 2 amends current law relating to the composition of districts for the election of members of the Texas Senate.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

S.B. 2 provides for the ratification and adoption of the interim redistricting plan used to elect members of the Texas Senate in 2012 ordered by the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas on February 28, 2012, in the case of *Davis, et al. v. Perry, et al.* (No. SA-11-CV-788), and identified as PLANS172 on the redistricting computer system operated by the Texas Legislative Council, as the permanent plan for districts used to elect members of the Texas Senate.

S.B. 2 repeals Chapter 1315 (S.B. 31), Acts of the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011 (Article 193e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes).

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.