By:  Huffman S.B. No. 375

(Darby)

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the composition of districts for the election of members of the Texas Senate.

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

SECTION 1.  The purpose of this Act is to ensure the legislature has fulfilled its duty to apportion the state into senatorial districts at its first regular session after the publication of the Twenty-fourth Decennial Census of the United States, as provided by Section 28, Article III, Texas Constitution.

SECTION 2.  The districts used to elect members of the Texas Senate in 2022, established by Chapter 5 (S.B. 4), Acts of the 87th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, 2021 (PLANS2168 in the Texas Legislature's redistricting system), are hereby ratified and adopted as the permanent districts used to elect members of the Texas Senate.

SECTION 3.  The legislature finds that the districts described by SECTION 2 of this Act are a continuation of the districts used for the election of the members of the Senate of the 88th Legislature. Accordingly, the legislature finds that enactment of this Act does not require a new senate be chosen for the 89th Legislature for purposes of Section 3, Article III, Texas Constitution. The legislature's findings expressed in this section are consistent with the opinion of the court of appeals in Armbrister v. Morales, 943 S.W.2d 202 (Tex. App.-Austin 1997, no pet.).

SECTION 4.  The districts described by SECTION 2 of this Act apply to the election of the members of the Texas Senate beginning with the primary and general elections in 2024 for members of the 89th Legislature. This Act does not affect the membership or districts of the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature.

SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.