March 17, 2006

SUBMISSION UNDER SECTION 5
OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT –
REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW

Mr. John Tanner
Chief, Voting Section
Civil Rights Division
Room 7254 - NWB
Department of Justice
1800 G St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: Georgia Sec. 5 Submission 2006-03: Redistricting of Georgia Senate Districts 46, 47 and 49.

Dear Mr. Tanner:

In my capacity as chief legal officer of the State of Georgia, I hereby submit for preclearance Act No. 436 (S.B. 386 of the 2005-06 Regular Session of the Georgia General Assembly) pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 1973c). This submission seeks preclearance of changes in the district lines for three districts of the Georgia State Senate. As discussed in more detailed below, Act No. 436 does not have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying the right to vote on account of race or color or membership in a language minority. Therefore, it is the position of the State of Georgia that the Attorney General should not raise an objection to these changes.

Because Act No. 436 is to be used in the 2006 senatorial elections, the State of Georgia seeks expedited review so that election officials will have adequate time to print and distribute notification to voters of their district assignments and take other necessary administrative actions, as well as to prepare for qualifying of candidates for these elections. Qualifying for political party primaries is set by statute to open at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 24 and to close at Noon on Friday, April 28, 2006.
In accordance with the required contents for submission set forth in 28 C.F.R. § 51.27, the State of Georgia hereby submits the following with respect to this request.

(a) A copy of any ordinance, enactment, order, or regulation embodying a change affecting voting.

A certified copy of Act No. 436 (S.B. 386 of the 2005-06 Regular Session of the Georgia General Assembly) is enclosed as Exhibit A. Maps and computer diskettes containing geographical descriptions of the changes proposed for Senate Districts 46, 47 and 49 are also enclosed as Exhibits C, as specifically identified below. Changes are made only to those three districts. No changes are made to the remainder of the benchmark plan.

(b) A copy of any ordinance, enactment, order or regulation embodying the voting practice that is proposed to be repealed, amended or otherwise changed.

The current benchmark Georgia State Senate map is a remedial map imposed by a Three-Judge Court of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia in the case of Larios et al. v. Cox, 314 F. Supp. 2nd 1357 (N.D. Ga. 2004). Maps of that benchmark plan and a computer diskette containing a geographic description of the plan are enclosed as Exhibit B as specifically identified below.

(c) If the change affecting voting either is not readily apparent on the face of the documents provided under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section or is not embodied in a document, a clear statement of the change explaining the difference between the submitted materials adequate to disclose to the Attorney General the difference between the prior and proposed situation with respect to voting.

The changes to the Senate districts are readily apparent on the face of the documents provided with this submission and the comparison of the benchmark and 2006 changes to Senate Districts 46, 47 and 49. See Exhibits B, C and D.¹

¹ In addition to the documentary exhibits submitted, the State also notes that the legislative history of this Act is available on the General Assembly’s website at http://www.legis.state.ga.us (follow hyperlink search for S.B. 386). Additionally, access to the video archives of the daily sessions of the House and Senate may be accessed through the same website and selecting “Live Broadcast”, then “Session Archives”, then
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Senate District 46 currently consists of all of Clarke, Oconee and Oglethorpe Counties and a portion of Madison County. Senate District 47, which borders S.D. 46 along the northern and western sides of the district, contains all of Barrow County and portions of Elbert, Jackson, Madison and Walton Counties. Senate District 49 is located northwest of S.D. 47 and contains all of Hall and part of Jackson County.

The new plan eliminates the Madison county split and moves it and all of Oglethorpe County into S.D. 47, so that district now consists of Barrow, Madison and Oglethorpe as whole counties, along with portions of Clarke, Elbert and Jackson Counties. District 46 retains all of Oconee County, and portions of Clarke and Walton Counties. Finally, all of Hall County remains in S.D. 49, along with a portion of Jackson County, but the split of Jackson County now moves from an irregular line to instead follow I-85, a clearly visible and identifiable geographic feature that is easier for voters to identify and for election officials to administer. See Exhibits D-1, D-2 (County Plan Component Reports) and Exhibit E, Transcript of January 9, 2006, meeting of the Senate Reapportionment Committee, pp. 4-6.

(d) The name, title, address and telephone number of the person making the submission.

Thurbert E. Baker  
Attorney General of Georgia  
40 Capitol Square, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-1300  
404-656-3300

Please mail all communications to:

Dennis R. Dunn  
Deputy Attorney General  
40 Capitol Square, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-1300  
404-656-5614

either the 2006 House or Senate link. This will link to a calendar where session videos may be selected by the day.
The name of the submitting authority and the name of the jurisdiction responsible for the change, if different.

The submitting authority is the Georgia Attorney General. The jurisdiction responsible for the change is the Georgia General Assembly.

If the submission is not from a state or county, the name of the county and state in which the submitting authority is located.

Not applicable.

Identification of the person or body responsible for making the change and the mode of decision (e.g., act of state legislature, ordinance of city council, administrative decision by registrar).

The Georgia General Assembly enacted Act No. 436 and it was signed into law on February 28, 2006, by the Governor in accordance with Georgia law.

A statement identifying the statutory or other authority under which the jurisdiction undertakes the change and a description of the procedures the jurisdiction was required to following in deciding to undertake the change.


As a court-drawn remedial plan, it was not subject to Section 5 review or preclearance. 28 C.F.R. § 51.18.

The date of the adoption of the change affecting voting.

The Act was signed into law by the Governor on February 28, 2006.
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(j) **The date on which the change is to take effect.**

Under Section 3 of the Act, the Act is effective upon signature of the Governor. However, under Section 1 of the Act, it will be first applied to the upcoming 2006 elections for Georgia State Senate Districts 46, 47 and 49 and the winners of those elections who are to take office in January 2007.

(k) **A statement that the change has not yet been enforced or administered, or an explanation why such a statement cannot be made.**

This change has not been enforced.

(l) **Where the change will affect less than the entire jurisdiction, an explanation of the scope of the change.**

The change will affect only those voters residing within Senate Districts 46, 47 and 49.

(m) **A statement of the reasons for the change.**

The incumbent Senators for S.D.'s 46, 47 and 49 are not African-American and are Brian Kemp, Ralph Hudgens and Casey Cagel, respectively. See General Assembly Picture Book, available at [http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/downloads/2006pictureBook.pdf](http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/downloads/2006pictureBook.pdf) (visited March 15, 2006). All of these Senators are members of the same political party. Senators Kemp and Hudgens had opposition in the previous general election. Neither of those opposing candidates were African-American.

Senator Hudgens introduced and sponsored S.B. 386. At the January 9, 2006 meeting of the Senate Reapportionment Committee, Mr. Hudgens explained that the remedial map imposed by the *Larios* decision had resulted in the splitting of Madison County, with one precinct from that county being included in S.D. 46. His proposed change remedied that split and restored Madison County to be contained wholly within his Senate district. **Exhibit D** at pp. 4-7.

Senator Hudgens indicated that he had the support of the Madison County Board of Commissioners in undoing the split of the County. See **Exhibit D** at 7-8, 10-11. He also testified that while the new plan would result in the splitting of Clarke County, given the size and population of that county

EXHIBIT D - 5
versus the smaller and more rural nature of Madison, it was appropriate to
do so and would result in Clarke County being represented by two
Senators rather than one. Id. at 9-11.

All three of the incumbent Senators who were affected by the proposed
change voted in favor of S.B. 386. See S.B. 386 History, available at
http://www.legis.state.pa.us/legis/2005 06/sb386.htm and
http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005 06/votes/sv0586.htm (Visited
March 15, 2006). This included Senator Kemp who currently represents
all of Clarke County.

(n) A statement of the anticipated effect of the change on members of racial
or language minority groups.

This change will not adversely affect members of racial or language
minority groups.

(o) A statement identifying any past or pending litigation concerning the
change or related voting practices.

There is no past or pending litigation concerning the 2006 redrawing of
Senate Districts 46, 47 and 49.

As noted above, the benchmark Senate plan was imposed as a remedy by a
Three-Judge Court of the United States District Court for the Northern
District of Georgia in the Larios case noted above. That benchmark plan
is not altered in any way by the passage of this Act except in the manner
noted in relation to these three Senate districts.

(p) A statement that the prior practice has been precleared (with the date) or
is not subject to the preclearance requirement and a statement that the
procedure of the adoption of the change has been precleared (with the
date) or is not subject to the preclearance requirement, or an explanation
of why such statements cannot be made.

As noted above, because the underlying benchmark plan was a court-
drawn remedial plan, it was not subject to Section 5 review or
 preclearance. 28 C.F.R. § 51.18.

(q) For redistrictings and annexations: the items listed under § 51.28(a)(1)
and (b)(1) [Demographic information and Maps]; for annexations only,
the items listed under § 51.28(c)(3).
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As noted above, demographic information is provided to the Attorney General in relation to both the benchmark plan and the proposed changes. Those exhibits are specifically identified as follow:

**Exhibits Relating to the Benchmark Plan - Plan Name SENFEDCTF**

**B-1:** Computer diskette containing export of the entire Senate benchmark plan.

**B-2:** Four page exhibit containing a map of the entire Senate benchmark plan and more detailed maps of the Atlanta, Macon, Columbus, Augusta and Savannah metropolitan areas.

**B-3:** A three page statistical summary of the population data of the entire Senate benchmark plan.

**B-4:** Two page exhibit consisting of a map of benchmark S.D.'s 46, 47 and 49 and a statistical summary of the population data of those three districts.

**Exhibits Related to the Proposed Changes – Plan Name SFCamd47p2**

**C-1:** Computer diskette containing export of the changes proposed to S.D.'s 46, 47 and 49.

**C-2:** Two page exhibit consisting of a map of proposed new S.D.'s 46, 47 and 49 and a statistical summary of the population data of those three districts.

(r) Other information that the Attorney General determines is required for an evaluation of the purpose or effect of the change.

As noted above, the legislative history for Act No. 436, including the dates and results of roll call votes in the House and the Senate and video of the chamber floor debates on those dates, is available on the General Assembly’s website.

EXHIBIT D - 7
Pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 51.28, the following additional information is submitted:

(a) **Demographic information.**

Demographic information related to the relevant maps is included as a part of the exhibits identified above and included with the submission. For the benefit of the Attorney General, the basic statistics of the benchmark plan and the changes to the three Senate districts are summarized in the various tables below. The State notes that the BPOP and BVAP data is derived from the 2000 decennial Census and has been the basis for Georgia’s redistricting process since the release of this data. Comparisons are provided by district for both the benchmark and the proposed districts.

Voter registration estimates are provided for the affected districts in both the benchmark and proposed plans for the November 2004 general elections. This election was the only general election which has been held under the current benchmark plan.

The BREG figures are based on the numbers of persons who identified themselves as “black” when registering to vote. Additionally, the figures are identified as “estimates” because in some instances, district lines split existing voting precincts and are based on precinct information provided to the Office of Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment, which might not be as current as information maintained by the individual counties at the time the figures were compiled. Georgia maintains its voter registration data, however, by voter precinct. If there was a split in a precinct, it is necessary to estimate how many registered voters should be allocated to each part of the precinct and district. This estimation is done by using the Census block voting age population data and then allocating registered voters to each of the districts based upon the voting age percentage in each precinct contained in each district.

I. **Population information:**

**BENCHMARK PLAN (Larios Remedial Plan)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>BPOP</th>
<th>%BPOP</th>
<th>BVAP</th>
<th>%BVAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>33,164</td>
<td>22.80</td>
<td>22,872</td>
<td>19.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>17,847</td>
<td>12.13</td>
<td>12,034</td>
<td>11.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>10,605</td>
<td>7.22</td>
<td>7,169</td>
<td>6.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**PROPOSED PLAN (SFCamd47p2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>BPOP</th>
<th>%BPOP</th>
<th>BVAP</th>
<th>%BVAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>32,795</td>
<td>22.60</td>
<td>22,373</td>
<td>20.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>18,204</td>
<td>12.39</td>
<td>12,526</td>
<td>11.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>10,617</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>7,176</td>
<td>6.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Registered Voter information:

**BENCHMARK PLAN (Larios Courtdrawn Plan)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2004 REG</th>
<th>2004 BREG</th>
<th>2004 %BREG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>73,385</td>
<td>13,642</td>
<td>18.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>77,584</td>
<td>7,261</td>
<td>9.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>65,060</td>
<td>3,998</td>
<td>6.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROPOSED PLAN (SFCamd47p2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2004 REG</th>
<th>2004 BREG</th>
<th>2004 %BREG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>75,287</td>
<td>13,185</td>
<td>17.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>75,411</td>
<td>7,721</td>
<td>10.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>65,320</td>
<td>4,004</td>
<td>6.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) **Maps.**

As identified above, maps and related demographic information are enclosed as Exhibits B and C.

(c) **Annexations.**

Not applicable.

(d) **Election returns.**

The only State Senate general election held under the current benchmark plan was on November 2, 2004. The precinct level election returns for that election are available through the Georgia Secretary of State’s website, by office that was sought and by county. See Secretary of State November 2, 2004 Election Results, available at http://www.sos.state.ga.us/elections/election_results/2004_1102/precincts.
htm (Visited March 15, 2006). Because Georgia elections are conducted by county election officials, the precinct level results are reported on a county-by-county basis. At this website, a particular county contained within the Senate district, such as Clarke County for example, may be selected. All of the Clarke County precinct level returns for that general election are then available for review. Scrolling down through the various offices voted on in Clarke County, the State Senate race is found on page 4 of the document and shows the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Total Votes</th>
<th>Brian Kemp (R)</th>
<th>Becky Vaughan (D)</th>
<th>Write-In Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entire County</td>
<td>1033</td>
<td>506 (48.05%)</td>
<td>547 (51.95%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>1342</td>
<td>645 (48.06%)</td>
<td>697 (51.94%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>345 (42.32%)</td>
<td>471 (57.68%)</td>
<td>1 (0.12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>1027</td>
<td>472 (45.96%)</td>
<td>555 (54.04%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>1181</td>
<td>316 (26.76%)</td>
<td>862 (72.99%)</td>
<td>3 (0.25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>1139</td>
<td>178 (15.77%)</td>
<td>951 (84.23%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>155 (19.92%)</td>
<td>623 (80.08%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>1335</td>
<td>427 (31.99%)</td>
<td>906 (68.01%)</td>
<td>2 (0.15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>263 (34.97%)</td>
<td>487 (64.76%)</td>
<td>2 (0.27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>1718</td>
<td>815 (47.44%)</td>
<td>903 (52.56%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>1030</td>
<td>428 (41.55%)</td>
<td>602 (58.45%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>1057</td>
<td>433 (40.96%)</td>
<td>624 (59.04%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>169 (18.49%)</td>
<td>744 (81.40%)</td>
<td>1 (0.11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5D</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>270 (33.99%)</td>
<td>494 (64.58%)</td>
<td>1 (0.13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6A</td>
<td>1023</td>
<td>522 (50.00%)</td>
<td>491 (49.00%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6B</td>
<td>1208</td>
<td>566 (46.83%)</td>
<td>602 (53.17%)</td>
<td>1 (0.03%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6C</td>
<td>1034</td>
<td>427 (41.32%)</td>
<td>577 (56.68%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7A</td>
<td>1038</td>
<td>468 (45.01%)</td>
<td>550 (54.99%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7B</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>534 (56.05%)</td>
<td>414 (43.95%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7C</td>
<td>1135</td>
<td>461 (40.62%)</td>
<td>674 (59.38%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8A</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>421 (43.76%)</td>
<td>531 (56.24%)</td>
<td>0 (0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8B</td>
<td>1149</td>
<td>519 (45.17%)</td>
<td>629 (54.83%)</td>
<td>2 (0.17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absentee</td>
<td>10648</td>
<td>4707 (44.21%)</td>
<td>5937 (55.76%)</td>
<td>4 (0.04%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9 (42.86%)</td>
<td>11 (52.38%)</td>
<td>1 (4.76%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 36010 15043 (41.77%) 20943 (58.13%) 21 (0.06%)
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Additionally, Exhibit F summarizes the registered voter population and black registered voter population for each of these districts.  

(e) Language usage.

To the best of my knowledge, the action does not affect the use of the language of a minority group in the elective process.

(f) Publicity and participation.

Committees within both the Senate and the Georgia House of Representatives held hearings regarding proposed redistricting in both the House and the Senate. Exhibit E is the transcript of the hearing held before the Senate Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee. The House has been video broadcasting and archiving its committee meetings. See Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Committee, 1/25/06, http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/Committees/reapportionment/reapArchives/reapportionmentArchives2006.html.

Additionally, the local media did cover the consideration and passage of the Senate redistricting decision. See Exhibit G (copies of newspaper articles from various newspapers around the State.)

(g) Availability of the submission.

The submission will be advertised by a legal advertisement in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, as shown in Exhibit H.

(h) Minority group contacts.

Hon. Willie Lee Talton  
Representative, District 145  
601 Coverdell Office Building  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
(404) 656-0254

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2 The Georgia 2004 voter registration database has been previously provided to the Attorney General in connection with Georgia Voting Rights Submission 2005-08 and the adoption of a new congressional plan. The DOJ File number for that submission was 2005-2959.
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Ms. Sarah Robinson  
(706) 613-1752  

For all the reasons set forth above, the State of Georgia respectfully requests that the Department undertake expedited review of this and interpose no objection.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

THURBERT E. BAKER  
Attorney General

TB:DRD:caa  
Enclosures

EXHIBIT D - 12
| DISTRICT | POPULATION | DEVIATION | % DEVIATION | BLACK | % BLACK | BLACK COMBO | TOTAL BLACK | % TOTAL BLACK | HISP OR LATINO | % HISP |
|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------|---------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-------|
| 001 VAP  | 147,326    | 1,139     | 0.78%       | 27,247| 18.49%  | 1,013       | 28,260      | 19.18%        | 5,132         | 3.48%   |
| 002 VAP  | 144,839    | -1,148    | -0.92%      | 84,625| 58.43%  | 963         | 85,588      | 59.09%        | 3,643         | 2.52%   |
| 003 VAP  | 146,990    | 803       | 0.55%       | 34,240| 23.29%  | 695         | 34,935      | 23.77%        | 3,936         | 2.68%   |
| 004 VAP  | 147,271    | 1,084     | 0.74%       | 37,527| 25.48%  | 418         | 37,945      | 25.77%        | 4,939         | 3.35%   |
| 005 VAP  | 147,997    | 910       | 0.62%       | 39,205| 26.65%  | 1,593       | 40,803      | 27.74%        | 37,893        | 25.21%  |
| 006 VAP  | 147,527    | 1,340     | 0.92%       | 49,213| 33.36%  | 1,503       | 50,716      | 34.38%        | 4,197         | 13.10%  |
| 007 VAP  | 145,391    | -796      | -0.54%      | 30,913| 21.26%  | 410         | 31,323      | 21.54%        | 6,880         | 4.59%   |
| 008 VAP  | 147,286    | 1,099     | 0.75%       | 55,143| 37.44%  | 647         | 55,790      | 37.88%        | 13,698        | 11.77%  |
| 009 VAP  | 146,643    | 456       | 0.31%       | 13,710| 9.35%   | 665         | 14,375      | 9.80%         | 9,044         | 6.17%   |
| 010 VAP  | 144,745    | -1,442    | -0.99%      | 92,389| 63.83%  | 908         | 93,287      | 64.52%        | 2,468         | 1.73%   |
| 011 VAP  | 146,098    | 505       | 0.35%       | 46,166| 31.78%  | 407         | 46,573      | 32.06%        | 1,588         | 1.56%   |
| 012 VAP  | 145,221    | -566      | -0.66%      | 85,661| 58.99%  | 537         | 86,198      | 59.36%        | 7,737         | 5.27%   |
| 013 VAP  | 145,140    | -1,047    | -0.72%      | 43,007| 29.63%  | 360         | 43,367      | 29.88%        | 5,141         | 3.54%   |
| 014 VAP  | 146,388    | 281       | 0.14%       | 65,776| 44.93%  | 440         | 66,216      | 45.23%        | 4,081         | 2.79%   |
| 015 VAP  | 147,292    | 1,105     | 0.76%       | 79,341| 53.87%  | 1,640       | 80,981      | 54.98%        | 8,171         | 5.55%   |
| 016 VAP  | 144,807    | -1,380    | -0.94%      | 31,527| 21.71%  | 475         | 32,002      | 22.10%        | 3,055         | 2.11%   |
| 017 VAP  | 146,533    | 346       | 0.24%       | 20,563| 14.03%  | 416         | 20,979      | 14.32%        | 2,434         | 1.66%   |
| 018 VAP  | 145,883    | -304      | -0.21%      | 25,477| 17.46%  | 564         | 26,041      | 17.85%        | 3,116         | 2.14%   |
| 019 VAP  | 145,090    | -1,097    | -0.75%      | 40,558| 27.95%  | 819         | 41,377      | 28.52%        | 8,960         | 6.18%   |


GEORGIA VRA 2006-03

EXHIBIT D - 17

EXHIBIT B-3
| DISTRICT | POPULATION | DEVIATION | % DEVIATION | BLACK | % BLACK | BLACK COMBO | TOTAL BLACK | % TOTAL BLACK | HISP OR LATINO | % DISP. |
|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------|---------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| 020 VAP  | 147,570    | 1,383     | 0.95%       | 45,231| 30.65%  | 329         | 45,560      | 30.87%        | 2,196        | 1.49%    |
| 021 VAP  | 146,229    | 33        | 0.02%       | 5,573 | 3.81%   | 412         | 5,985       | 4.09%         | 6,642        | 4.42%    |
| 022 VAP  | 145,091    | -1,056    | -0.75%      | 84,524| 58.26%  | 1,450       | 85,974      | 59.26%        | 3,529        | 2.43%    |
| 023 VAP  | 146,025    | -162      | -0.11%      | 58,795| 40.26%  | 738         | 59,533      | 40.77%        | 3,317        | 2.27%    |
| 024 VAP  | 147,404    | 1,217     | 0.83%       | 30,628| 20.78%  | 526         | 31,154      | 21.14%        | 2,352        | 2.20%    |
| 025 VAP  | 146,909    | 722       | 0.49%       | 58,833| 40.05%  | 528         | 59,361      | 40.41%        | 2,359        | 1.61%    |
| 026 VAP  | 146,078    | -109      | -0.07%      | 84,217| 57.65%  | 741         | 84,958      | 58.16%        | 2,333        | 1.60%    |
| 027 VAP  | 144,856    | -1,331    | -0.91%      | 1,740 | 1.20%   | 173         | 1,913       | 1.32%         | 8,511        | 5.88%    |
| 028 VAP  | 145,614    | -573      | -0.39%      | 22,485| 15.44%  | 416         | 22,901      | 15.73%        | 3,458        | 2.37%    |
| 029 VAP  | 146,462    | 275       | 0.19%       | 37,237| 25.42%  | 539         | 37,776      | 25.79%        | 3,072        | 2.10%    |
| 030 VAP  | 147,339    | 1,152     | 0.79%       | 20,414| 13.86%  | 668         | 23,082      | 14.31%        | 3,639        | 2.47%    |
| 031 VAP  | 147,474    | 1,287     | 0.88%       | 13,397| 9.08%   | 451         | 13,848      | 9.39%         | 5,701        | 3.87%    |
| 032 VAP  | 145,990    | -1,097    | -0.75%      | 9,034 | 6.23%   | 546         | 9,580       | 6.60%         | 5,865        | 3.94%    |
| 033 VAP  | 147,449    | 1,262     | 0.86%       | 42,942| 29.12%  | 1,290       | 44,232      | 30.00%        | 16,592       | 11.25%   |
| 034 VAP  | 144,909    | -1,278    | -0.87%      | 77,300| 53.34%  | 1,561       | 78,861      | 54.42%        | 6,234        | 4.30%    |
| 035 VAP  | 146,816    | 629       | 0.43%       | 86,125| 58.66%  | 1,333       | 87,458      | 59.57%        | 6,734        | 4.59%    |
| 036 VAP  | 146,788    | 601       | 0.41%       | 90,361| 61.56%  | 1,176       | 91,537      | 62.35%        | 10,749       | 7.22%    |
| 037 VAP  | 144,905    | -1,282    | -0.88%      | 12,942| 8.93%   | 636         | 13,578      | 9.37%         | 5,931        | 4.09%    |
| 038 VAP  | 146,601    | 414       | 0.28%       | 92,223| 62.91%  | 872         | 93,095      | 63.50%        | 7,341        | 5.01%    |
| 039 VAP  | 145,574    | -613      | -0.42%      | 83,580| 57.41%  | 988         | 84,568      | 58.09%        | 5,914        | 4.06%    |
| VAP 118,720 | 63,064    | 53.12%    | 677         | 63,741| 53.69%  |             |             |               | 4,581        | 3.86%    |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>DEVIATION</th>
<th>% BLACK</th>
<th>BLACK COMBO</th>
<th>TOTAL BLACK</th>
<th>% TOTAL BLACK</th>
<th>HISP. OR LATINO</th>
<th>% HISP.</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>146,630</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>0.30%</td>
<td>15,844</td>
<td>16,733</td>
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<td>24,677</td>
<td>16.83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>041 VAP</td>
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<td>1,202</td>
<td>0.82%</td>
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<td>52,129</td>
<td>35.37%</td>
<td>13,682</td>
<td>9.28%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>110,964</td>
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<td>1,512</td>
<td>35,036</td>
<td>31.57%</td>
<td>9,762</td>
<td>8.80%</td>
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<td>679</td>
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<td>33.55%</td>
<td>11,963</td>
<td>8.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7,947</td>
<td>5.41%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>33,164</td>
<td>22.80%</td>
<td>7,633</td>
<td>5.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>147,129</td>
<td>942</td>
<td>0.64%</td>
<td>17,400</td>
<td>17,847</td>
<td>12.13%</td>
<td>3,562</td>
<td>2.42%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12,998</td>
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</table>

Total Population: 8,186,453
Ideal Value: 146,187

Summary Statistics
Population Range: 144,745 to 147,570
Absolute Range: -1,442 to 1,383
Absolute Overall Range: 2,825
Relative Range: -0.99% to 0.95%
Relative Overall Range: 1.93%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>DEVIATION</th>
<th>% DEVIATION</th>
<th>BLACK</th>
<th>% BLACK</th>
<th>BLACK COMBO</th>
<th>TOTAL BLACK</th>
<th>% TOTAL BLACK</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>%TOTAL BLACK</th>
<th>HISP. OR LATINO</th>
<th>%HISP.</th>
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<tr>
<td>046</td>
<td>145,476</td>
<td>-711</td>
<td>-0.49%</td>
<td>32,546</td>
<td>22.37%</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>33,164</td>
<td>22.80%</td>
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<td>296</td>
<td>22,872</td>
<td>19.92%</td>
<td>5,292</td>
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<tr>
<td>047</td>
<td>147,129</td>
<td>942</td>
<td>0.64%</td>
<td>17,400</td>
<td>11.83%</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>17,847</td>
<td>12.13%</td>
<td>3,562</td>
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<td>VAP</td>
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<td>120</td>
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<td>2,281</td>
<td>2.14%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>049</td>
<td>146,916</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
<td>10,230</td>
<td>6.96%</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>10,605</td>
<td>7.22%</td>
<td>27,633</td>
<td>18.81%</td>
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<td>132</td>
<td>7,169</td>
<td>6.69%</td>
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</table>

Total Population: 439,521
Ideal Value: 146,187

Summary Statistics
Population Range: 145,476 to 147,129
Absolute Range: -711 to 942
Absolute Overall Range: 1,653
Relative Range: -0.49% to 0.64%
Relative Overall Range: 1.13%

### Summary Statistics

- **Total Population**: 439,521  
- **Ideal Value**: 146,187

**Population Range**: 145,103 to 147,484  
**Absolute Range**: -1,084 to 1,297  
**Absolute Overall Range**: 2,381  
**Relative Range**: -0.74% to 0.89%  
**Relative Overall Range**: 1.63%
Plan Components Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District 046</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>TAL BLACK</th>
<th>L BLACK VAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarke County</td>
<td>101,489</td>
<td>28,165</td>
<td>19,433</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison County (part)</td>
<td>5,127</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>485</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oconee County</td>
<td>26,225</td>
<td>1,731</td>
<td>1,164</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oglethorpe County</td>
<td>12,635</td>
<td>2,548</td>
<td>1,790</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 046 Subtotal</td>
<td>145,476</td>
<td>33,164</td>
<td>22,872</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District 047</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>TAL BLACK</th>
<th>L BLACK VAP</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barrow County</td>
<td>46,144</td>
<td>4,675</td>
<td>3,115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elbert County (part)</td>
<td>5,420</td>
<td>1,401</td>
<td>1,013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson County (part)</td>
<td>33,950</td>
<td>3,227</td>
<td>2,346</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison County (part)</td>
<td>20,603</td>
<td>1,496</td>
<td>1,028</td>
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<td>Walton County (part)</td>
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<td>District 047 Subtotal</td>
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<td>12,034</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>District 049</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>TAL BLACK</th>
<th>L BLACK VAP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hall County</td>
<td>139,277</td>
<td>10,486</td>
<td>7,092</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson County (part)</td>
<td>7,639</td>
<td>119</td>
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<td>146,916</td>
<td>10,605</td>
<td>7,169</td>
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State totals | 459,521 | 61,616 | 42,075 |
### Plan Components Report

**Wednesday, March 15, 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District 046</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>TAI BLACK</th>
<th>L BLACK VAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarke County (part)</td>
<td>77,866</td>
<td>24,026</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oconee County</td>
<td>26,225</td>
<td>1,731</td>
<td>1,164</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walton County (part)</td>
<td>41,012</td>
<td>7,038</td>
<td>4,530</td>
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<td><strong>District 046 Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>145,103</strong></td>
<td><strong>32,795</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,373</strong></td>
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<td>District 047</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barrow County</td>
<td>46,144</td>
<td>4,675</td>
<td>3,115</td>
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<td>Clarke County (part)</td>
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<td>District 049</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hall County</td>
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<td>7,092</td>
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<td>Jackson County (part)</td>
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<td><strong>61,616</strong></td>
<td><strong>42,075</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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In The Matter Of:

Senate Reapportionment
Committee Meeting

January 9, 2006

American Court Reporting Company, Inc.
52 Executive Park S, Suite 5201
Atlanta, Georgia 30329
800-445-2804
WWW.ACRGA.COM

Original File 50907.TXT, Pages 2-21 (20)
Word Index included with this Min-U-Script®
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SENATOR MOODY: Present.
CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Shafer?
SENATOR SHAFER: Present.
CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Stephans?
SENATOR STEPHENS: Here.
CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Thomas:
    (No response.)
CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Williams?
SENATOR WILLIAMS: Here.
CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let the record reflect
    that we have met the requirements for quorum.
We're here today to take up Senate Bill 386 by
Senator Hudgens. Senator, would you like to come
before the Committee.

In your packet you're going to find some
maps and some other information that Senator
Hudgens has given us.

Before we start I would like to comment that
I hope everyone has received the Notice that I
sent out last week, which brought us to this
point today pertaining to potential minor changes
to districts.

I want to stress that the time constraints
are of great importance to us. We want to
make sure any changes are precleared prior to

P R O C E E D I N G S
CHAIRMAN ROGERS: All right. I think we
went past the 3:00 starting time. The first
thing I would like to do to call this meeting
into order is to call the roll to make sure that
we are officially within the bounds of our
quorum, so if we could start this by saying yes
or present when I call your name.

Preston Smith?
SENATOR SMITH: Present.

qualifying, so if you're considering changes or
if you know anyone considering changes, we would
like to get those in as quick as possible. I
know I put a January 20th date as the last date
we would accept any, but if you would do it prior
to January 20th, that would be very helpful in
making sure that any changes that you desire make
it through the process. And with that, Senator
Hudgens, the floor is yours.

SENATOR HUDGENS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Committee, I bring to
you Senate Bill 386, which is a bill that makes
a modification to the 46th, 47th and the 49th
Senate District as drawn by the Federal
Courts. Now this map I've got in there. And the
first map in your folder is the current of these
three districts. It shows the district that I
represent. It goes from a portion -- it's the
green in the middle of this between the pink and
yellow. It's three precincts in Elbert County,
all of Madison County with the exception of one
precinct, Jackson County, which is the next one
as you move west has three divided precincts in it.
Berrien County is whole. Walton County is
split between the Senator of the 17th District
and me, but all three precincts are whole. And so the current 46th District has one precinct in Madison County, all of Clarke County, all of Oglethorpe County and all of Oconee County.

The current 49th District has all of Hall County. And it has one precinct in Jackson County and pieces of three others in Jackson County. And so this bill, Senate Bill 386, the second map in there would be the way it would be divided.

And I'm going to take this current map down so we can have a big one that we can look at.

CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let the record reflect that Senator Fort is joining us.

SENATOR BROWN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you help me? Are we dealing with GPS, is that the map we're looking at?

SENATOR HUDGINS: Yes, that's the current map.

SENATOR FORT: Thank you.

SENATOR HUDGINS: All right. Can everyone see that? You've got a small rendition in your folder. The changes that would be made would be to put Madison County back whole and put that whole precinct back in the 47th Senate District. And put Oglethorpe in the 47th Senate District. Put the Winterville precinct and Eastern Clarke County in the 47th Precinct. Keep Oconee County - the balance of Clarke County would be in the 46th. Keep Oconee in the 46th. And put the Walton County portion that is currently in the 47th in the 46th. Up in Jackson County we will make - there will still be two divided precincts. We will heal up one of the divided precincts, but the division will be along I-85 rather than a jagged line. And so anybody that knows that live north of I-85 in those precincts they'll know they're in the 49th District. Anybody that lives south of I-85 will know they're in the 47th Senate District.

The next thing in your folder is the statistical data. And you can look and see that the deviations all remain under plus or minus 1%. You'll see that the black voting population in the 46th is increased by 0.9%. In the 47th it is increased by - I haven't done the math, but it's a little bit, not much. And in the 49th is reduced by .02% which is a very small decrease. So the deviation is going to meet all the federal guidelines and not affecting any of the minority voting strength is not an issue here.

The reason I'm doing that, and that's a question that's going to be asked, if you'll look at the next thing in your folder, on April the 9th of 2001, the Madison County Board of Commissioners met and they have met their resolution that asks three things of the Re-districting Committee. And at that time I was on the House Reapportionment Committee that had a public hearing in Oconee County. And I was there. And Chairman Nash of the Madison County Board of Commissioners presented this resolution and in there it had three things. It said keep Madison County in tact within one district of the Georgia House of Representatives with the remainder of that district composed of the entirety of Oglethorpe County and a portion of Athens and Clarke County.

The second thing they asks is keep Madison County in tact with one district of the Georgia Senate with the remainder of the district composed of counties and populations of similar character and interests.

And thirdly keep Madison County in tact with one district of the United States House of Representatives, with that district also remained the other two counties in the Athens Metropolitan area mainly Oconee and Clarke.

That third request was fulfilled last year when we adopt congressional maps. Madison County is now in the same district with Athens and Clarke County for U.S. Congress.

If we adopt the second request, if we adopt this map then that second request will be fulfilled. We'll be in one district of the Georgia Senate. And we have no control over what they do in the house. That's their job. So that's one of the requests.

The next thing in your folder is a letter from the Madison County Chamber of Commerce of March 3, 2004, that was addressed to Governor Purdue. The first paragraph talks about they have been divided up into three House Districts and two Senate Districts. And they're asking the Governor -- it says as the Governor of Georgia, I hope that you can in some way help us to be placed as a whole county again.

They would like to be whole in the House and the Senate, so that's a request from the Madison County Chamber.
The last thing request I've had is the current 2006 legislative priorities adopted by the Athens area Chamber. And if you look under education, that top thing, the fifth bullet point down, it says they support any re-districting efforts to increase our representation at the State Capital as one of the largest and most educated regions in Georgia.

The reason they're asking this, if you'll look at the next thing in your folder, Athens, Clarke County is the fourteenth largest counties in the State of Georgia in population. Now it's one of the smallest geographically, but it's the fourteenth largest in the state.

If you take the thirteen counties that are larger in population than Athens and then add up the total number of Senators that represent those counties, which is 45 and you divide it by 13, you come up with 3.46 senators per county. Now the only county there that is represented by one senator is Hall County. But Hall County used to be represented by four senators prior to this Federal Court drawn map. And I was one of the senators that represented part of Hall County. And when you look at the representation that Hall County had in the Senate when they had 14 senators, they had a sitting member of 14 committees in Hall County. I'm not going to bore you reading all the committees, but they had practically every senate committee with a representative of Hall County. I talked to Kit Dunlap who is the President of the Hall County Chamber and she said if she was given the choice she would rather be represented by four senators rather than just by one strictly because of the representation you get on the Senate, various senate committees. So this bill is in response to the Madison County Chamber, the Madison County Commission, the Athens, Clarke County Chamber of Commerce. And so this bill also — if you'll look at the two maps, the current district goes from Bowman, which is Elbert County, which is extremely rural, all the way to Loganville.

Now let me tell you folks, the folks in Bowman don't have anything in common with the folks in Loganville. If Bowman gets a new 7-11 store, they think that's economic development. Loganville is fighting growth that Bowman is looking for. If we make these changes we'll take Oglethorpe County, which is more like Madison County, and put it in with Madison and that western part of Elbert County, which are all very similar, they're all granite based and you put that whole precinct back in you accomplish what the Madison Commissioners and the Madison Chamber wants to keep their county whole. We heal up some precincts in Jackson County. They'll no longer be divided. We will have one divided precinct in Clarke County to keep within the plus or minus 1% guideline, but that division is along Gang School Road. Anybody that lives north of Gang School Road in the precinct is in one senate district. And anybody that lives south of Gang School Road is going to be in the other senate district. So basically that's the bill and that's what I have introduced.

CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Before taking any questions, I want to note for the record Senator Harbison and Senator Thomas are here as well. And with that, I will open up for any questions to the Committee.

SENATOR FORT: Mr. Chairman, before I ask the question I want to commend the Senator for his presentation. Now you managed to argue on both sides of an issue on one point. On the one hand you said you don't want to split counties and on the other you want to split so they can have more representatives. I want to commend you on such a complex argument for your position here.

SENATOR HUDGENS: Well, Senator Brown, my contention is if you're going to split a county in a district or in a geographical area, you need to split the largest county there, not the smallest county. And Madison County — well, Oglethorpe County is smaller than Madison, but Madison County is one of just a few counties in its population range between 20 and 30,000 people that is split currently under the map we're in. And we would like to put small counties back together.

SENATOR FORT: Thank you, Senator. Of course, you know I can tell you now to split the counties.

SENATOR HUDGENS: I've seen that.

SENATOR FORT: Senator, has anybody seen these maps. other than this Committee, any of these people who are affected by this, have they given you any input at all?

SENATOR HUDGENS: Well, yes, sir. Senator...
SENATOR THOMAS: There is readiness on my part because I really haven't had the opportunity to look at this. And are we going to meet again this week to vote on this or something else different? I think we have a meeting scheduled for Thursday.

CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Well, we do have a meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday in anticipation that there may be other senators that bring similar type changes to us, but as I indicated right before you got here, because of time constraints we want to make sure any changes are pre-cleared prior to qualifying in April. I know the note that I sent out said January 20th, but the sooner that a change gets introduced, the better. And I would like to award those senators who bring the maps to us quickly so we can get them through and give them a better chance for approval.

SENATOR THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I guess that's what I get for being late.

SENATOR SHAFTER: Mr. Chairman, I move to pass.

CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Fort.

SENATOR FORT: Yes, all I want to say is my only concern, Mr. Chair, is that this is, you know, one of several tries at redisticting. And I understand what you're trying to do here, but it would seem to me that this is the redisticting that will never end. And I would hope that at some point in time, you know, we won't continually keep redisticting every session for whatever purpose, so that's my concern, Mr. Chair, and I just wanted to have that stated on the record. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. We have a motion in a second. And at that time I will call on Senator Smith?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Seabough?

SENATOR SEABOUGH: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Brown?

SENATOR BROWN: No.

CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Chance?

SENATOR CHANCE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Fort?

SENATOR FORT: No.

CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Harbison?

SENATOR HARBISON: No.

CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Hudgens?
SENATOR HUDGENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Moody?
SENATOR MOODY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Shafer?
SENATOR SHAFER: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Stephens?
SENATOR STEPHENS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Senator Thomas?
SENATOR THOMAS: No.
CHAIRMAN ROGERS: And Senator Williams?
SENATOR WILLIAMS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ROGERS: There are eight yes's and
four no's. And with that, this motion carries.
That's all I have for today.
(Concluded at 3:23 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF GEORGIA )
COUNTY OF COPE_

I, Lolita G. Morris, hearing officer, being
a certified Court Reporter in and for the State of
Georgia at large, certify that the foregoing
transcript is a true and complete record of the
hearing of January 9, 2006, taken in my presence; that
I am neither a relative nor an employee nor of such
attorney or counsel, not financially interested in the
action.
Witness my hand and official seal on the
11th day of January, 2006, at Coweta County, Georgia.

LOLITA G. MORRIS, CCR 2480
January 9, 2006

16.7
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Kemp 13:1,4
Kit 10:6
knows 6:12

L

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larger 9:16
largest 9:8,11,14,12:9
last 3:20;4:4,8,4:9,11; 13:20
late 13:13,15:21
legislative 9:2
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line 6:11
little 6:22
live 6:12
lives 6:14;11:11,13
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looking 5:17,10:24

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makes 4:12
making 4:7
managed 11:24
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may 15:9
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Metropolitan 8:2
middle 4:19
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minority 6:25
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MOODY 3:1;17:3
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most 9:8
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Plan Components Report

Thursday, March 16, 2006

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### Plan Components Report

**Thursday, March 16, 2006**

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**State totals**

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<td>439,521</td>
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ATLANTA - Gov. Sonny Perdue on Wednesday signed a controversial redistricting plan for Athens-Clarke County despite saying that he didn't want Republicans to be as partisan about boundary lines as Democrats were when they controlled state politics.

He also signed an executive order creating a task force to study nonpartisan ways to adjust legislative lines in the future.

Senate Democratic Leader Robert Brown, D-Macon, accused the governor of hypocrisy.

"It is a little bit duplicious for him to set up a nonpartisan commission after doing something so partisan," he said.

The redistricting is seen by Democrats as a GOP ploy to put more Republican-leaning voters in both districts by diluting the liberal area of the University of Georgia-influenced county.

Mr. Perdue also downplayed the threat of a lawsuit from state Rep. Jane Kidd, D-Athens, who is running for one of the Senate district seats and calls the remap unconstitutional.

Mr. Perdue said Ms. Kidd's possible suit wasn't a factor in his decision and gave her little chance of winning if she follows through.

The remap must be approved by the U.S. Justice Department before it can take effect.

The governor also said he signed Senate Bill 386 because it conformed to two principles he had set for redistricting bills: It didn't change the total population of the districts, and it didn't change their racial makeup.

Still, he was uncomfortable with how much the Athens-area boundaries shifted.

He also signed House Bill 1137, which made minor changes to a half-dozen House districts with little opposition.

Democrats have charged that the Athens split was done to make District 46 lean more toward a Republican candidate so the party could hold the seat.

Sen. Brian Kemp, R-Athens, is retiring to run for agriculture commissioner, and Ms. Kidd and Republican Bill Cowser, who is Mr. Kemp's brother-in-law, both have said they intend to run for the seat.
SECTION: METRO; Pg. B02

LENGTH: 676 words

HEADLINE: DEMOCRATS SEEK END TO REDISTRICTING FIGHTS

BYLINE: By Brandon Larrabee Morris News Service

BODY:

ATLANTA - Elena Brown, a retired teacher from Athens, doesn't mince words when discussing a Republican-backed redistricting plan that would divide Clarke County among two state Senate districts.

"We feel like something's been done to us," said Ms. Brown, who came to the Gold Dome with local officials recently to protest the plan.

Supporters say the proposal would place all of less-populous Madison County into one Senate district; opponents say it is a thinly veiled attempt to hurt Rep. Jane Kidd, D-Athens, in her bid to succeed Sen. Brian Kemp, an Athens Republican expected to run for agriculture commissioner.

The new map currently sits on Gov. Sonny Perdue's desk, awaiting his signature or veto.

Preventing such partisan tension is one reason some lawmakers have proposed that Georgia follow the lead of a handful of other states that try to take politics out of redistricting by giving power for moving political boundaries to a special commission.

For the Democratic residents of Clarke County, which has resisted the state's Republican tilt, the latest episode has been an affront.

"The helpless feeling is not very good," Ms. Brown said.

Some see the controversy over Athens' political boundaries as yet another chapter in a wave of redistricting that has swept the state almost annually in recent years, even though the U.S. Constitution only requires the restructuring once a decade.

The first set of maps from 2000 Census data passed during a 2001 special session devoted to the topic. Democrats in control of the Legislature passed some tweaks in 2002. A split General Assembly failed to pass new legislative lines under a court order in 2004, leading a three-judge federal panel to the do the job instead.

Last year, a GOP-dominated Legislature approved new congressional districts.

This year, the Athens-Clarke County controversy is the most divisive plan among a handful that have been proposed. For the most part, the other proposals only clean up oddities created by the court-drawn maps of 2004.

But some say the Athens fight illustrates the problem with perennial redistricting.

"When you keep having change, it's upsetting to citizens," said Janet Pomeroy, 77, who joined Athens officials on the Capitol visit.

Defeated on map after map since being consigned to the minority, Democrats have joined good-government advocates in calling for an end to the continuous redrawing of districts.
"We don't need to be doing reapportionment every year," said Sen. Tim Golden, who led the upper chamber’s redistricting panel during the heated battles of 2001. He called the duty "the most unpleasant political task that I've ever performed in my life."

Republicans point out that some shifts in the political lines have always been accepted, particularly minor tweaks worked out between lawmakers in neighboring districts who both want to move the boundaries so work out oddities.

"It's almost treated like local legislation, and you do it out of courtesy," said Rep. Bobby Franklin, a Marietta Republican who runs the House committee in charge of redistricting.

What's different, opponents say, are mid-decade plans meant to change the political balance of power - exactly what they contend the Athens plan would do.

ANNUAL EVENT The redistricting proposals that have passed the General Assembly since the 2000 Census include: 2001: Democrats pass a map with bizarre lines that Republicans say are meant only to keep the Legislature from falling under GOP control. A three-judge federal panel blocks the plan. 2002: Democrats tweak the lines passed in 2001. 2004: After the federal court ruling, the GOP-controlled Senate and Democrat-dominated House clash over how to redistrict the state. The court does it instead. 2005: After taking the House, Republicans decide to redraw congressional districts, which they say were almost as bad as the legislative maps. NOW: The House and Senate have passed a redistricting plan that would divide Clarke County into two Senate districts. Other, minor tweaks to the House maps are also expected to pass. Morris News Service

LOAD-DATE: February 7, 2006

13 of 36 DOCUMENTS

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The Macon Telegraph (Georgia)

February 1, 2006 Wednesday

SECTION: B

LENGTH: 181 words

HEADLINE: House lawmakers allow Senate redistricting despite objections

BYLINE: Greg Bluestein, ASSOCIATED PRESS

BODY:

House lawmakers voted Tuesday to redraw the Senate's political map by dividing the Democratic stronghold of Athens into two Senate districts.

The plan's GOP sponsor said it was an effort to honor a five-year-old request from commissioners in rural Madison County to put their community under one state senator. But Democrats decried it as an election-year "hijacking" designed to hurt the chances of a House Democrat seeking the seat.

Under the proposed change, which passed 100-69, the district that currently includes all of Athens would include half of the city and Republican-leaning Walton County.

State Rep. Jane Kidd, D-Athens, has announced plans to run for the seat this year. So has Republican Bill Cowser, the brother-in-law of state Sen. Brian Kemp, R-Athens, who is running for state agricultural commissioner.
Democrats have vowed to fight the move, which was already passed by the Senate, if it's signed by Gov. Sonny Perdue. If the bill is signed by the governor, the measure must still go before the federal Department of Justice, which must approve any voting law in Georgia.

LOAD-DATE: February 1, 2006

14 of 36 DOCUMENTS

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The Macon Telegraph (Georgia)
January 31, 2006 Tuesday

LENGTH: 501 words

HEADLINE: House allows Senate redistricting despite Democrats' objections

BYLINE: Greg Bluestein, ASSOCIATED PRESS

BODY:

House lawmakers voted today to redraw the Senate's political map by dividing the Democratic stronghold of Athens into two Senate districts.

The plan's GOP sponsor said it was an effort to honor a five-year-old request from commissioners in rural Madison County to put their community under one state senator. But Democrats decried it as an election-year "hijacking" designed to hurt the chances of a House Democrat seeking the seat.

Under the proposed change, which passed 100-69, the district that currently includes all of Athens would include half of the city and Republican-leaning Walton County.

State Rep. Jane Kidd, D-Athens, has announced plans to run for the seat this year. So has Republican Bill Cowsert, the brother-in-law of state Sen. Brian Kemp, R-Athens, who is running for state agricultural commissioner.

Democrats have vowed to fight the move, which was already passed by the Senate, if it's signed by Gov. Sonny Perdue.

"It's about taking Jane Kidd out of the Senate race. That's what it's about," said Minority Leader DuBose Porter of Dublin. "It's amazing to me - fairly humorous in fact - about how they try to justify this. This is about rigging this election."

State Rep. Bobby Franklin, R-Marietta, said the bill tries to keep communities of interest together while also giving Athens more political representation. He also rejected attempts by House Democrats to support a different Senate map.

Athens Mayor Heidi Davison and local Democrats sent Gov. Sonny Perdue a letter last week protesting the bill and the "subterfuge" they said was involved in drafting it.

"It hurts me today to think that in Washington and in here that we don't have as many statesmen - people who do the right thing," she said. "You know right from wrong. Now do it."

Redistricting attempts have snared both parties. Republicans in the Legislature complained bitterly in 2001 when Democrats, who then controlled both chambers and the governor's office, drew political maps they said unfairly carved up the state to maintain a hold on political power.
A panel of federal judges ultimately tossed out those maps and redrew them when lawmakers could not agree on substitutes.

Republican lawmakers still seemed sore about those maps, scoffing at Democrats for the "miraculous transformation" when their own districts are redrawn. Republican state Rep. Ed Lindsey confronted Keith Heard, D-Athens, for voting in 2001 to divide Atlanta's right-leaning Buckhead district.

"Two wrongs don't make a right," said Heard.

State Rep. Alan Powell echoed the admission. "We weren't right," said Powell, D-Hartwell. "Partisanship is like creeping kudzu. It's like a disease ... Is this not the same thing that Democrats were bashed and beat about for doing just a few years ago?"

If the bill is signed by the governor, the measure must still go before the federal Department of Justice, which must approve any voting law in Georgia.

LOAD-DATE: January 31, 2006
Senate Majority Leader Tommie Williams, R-Lyons, said an informal deadline has already passed for members of the upper chamber to introduce their redistricting ideas.

He said he was unaware of any changes beyond the Athens plan, which would split Clarke County among two Senate districts.

"No members are talking to me about it," Mr. Williams said of further changes.

LOAD-DATE: January 25, 2006

Elected officials from the Democratic stronghold of Athens on Monday gathered at the state Capitol to protest a new legislative map that would split their community in two.

Heidi Davison, mayor of Athens-Clarke County, said the proposal smacked of election-year politics.

"(Our citizens will have virtually no chance at fair representation by someone with whom they are politically and ideologically aligned," Davison said in a letter to Gov. Sonny Perdue.

Democrats contend the plan is intended to harm Rep. Jane Kidd, D-Athens, who is seeking the region's state Senate seat, and to boost the prospects of Republican candidate Bill Cowart, the brother-in-law of the GOP state senator vacating the seat. State Sen. Brian Kemp, R-Athens, is leaving to run for state agriculture commissioner.

The redistricting bill was drafted by state Sen. Ralph Hudgens, R-Comer, who claimed he is simply fulfilling a promise he made to voters in rural Madison County to create a district that would keep their county intact. It passed the state Senate 34-18 last week.

Kemp said the new map would increase Athens' political clout in state government.

But Democrats say it is unprecedented for a state lawmaker outside of the affected district to push for a new map without consulting local lawmakers.

As it currently stands, the state Senate district includes all of Athens. Hudgens' bill would put half the city into a district with neighboring, Republican-leaning Walton County.

Davison and other Democrats sent Perdue a letter protesting the bill and the "subterfuge" they said was involved in drafting it. A protest petition is also circulating in Athens and Davison said about 500 people had signed so far.

The current district lines were drawn by a panel of federal judges after a dispute between state lawmakers. The measure must be acted on by the House.

Rep. Keith Heard, D-Athens, said Monday he would introduce a bill to keep the district lines in Athens whole.

Any changes to voting law in Georgia must be approved by the U.S. Department of Justice before they take effect.
Democrats protest strategy aimed at redistricting Athens

LOAD-DATE: January 24, 2006

19 of 36 DOCUMENTS

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The Macon Telegraph (Georgia)

January 23, 2006 Monday

SECTION: C

LENGTH: 342 words

HEADLINE: Democrats protest Athens redistricting

BODY:

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LOAD-DATE: January 24, 2006

20 of 36 DOCUMENTS
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On The Net:

Georgia General Assembly: http://www.legis.state.ga.us/

LOAD-DATE: January 24, 2006
ATHENS REDISTRICTING GETS SENATE APPROVAL

The Augusta Chronicle (Georgia)

January 13, 2006 Friday
ALL EDITION

SECTION: METRO; Pg. B06

LENGTH: 327 words

HEADLINE: ATHENS REDISTRICTING GETS SENATE APPROVAL

BYLINE: By Vicky Eckenrode Morris News Service

BODY:

ATLANTA - In their first vote of the year, state senators Thursday approved breaking Athens into two voting districts despite protests from Democrats who said GOP members are contradicting arguments they've made in the past against redrawing maps for political gain.

Sen. Ralph Hudgens, R-Comer, who sponsored the redistricting plan, said he has been trying to make changes to the metro-Athens political lines since the Legislature took up redistricting statewide.

"This has been a battle I've fought since 2001," he said.

The changes approved 34-18 on Thursday affect the 46th, 47th and 49th Senate districts, covering Clarke County and the surrounding area.

Mr. Hudgens said there was county-level support for making Madison County covered by a single senator instead of the two districts now represented, though he said he has not officially spoken with the full Athens commission about his proposal.

The decision to introduce a second Senate district into Clarke County drew the harshest response from Democrats, largely because they said the bill is designed to make it more difficult for Rep. Jane Kidd, D-Athens, to run for a Senate seat this year.

Under the plan, the 46th District drops Oglethorpe County, retains the western half of Clarke County and absorbs a portion of Walton County.

Sen. Brian Kemp, R-Athens, who currently holds the seat but is running for state agriculture commissioner this year, said he did not push for the changes but thought they would benefit Athens by adding a legislative member.

"I think it's going to give our area a lot more influence in the Senate, especially in the budget process," he said.

Ms. Kidd, who announced last year she is running for Mr. Kemp's seat, slammed the new maps in a speech to the House on Thursday.

"This is the kind of political gerrymandering that Gov. (Sonny) Perdue railed against when it was done by another administration," Ms. Kidd said. "If we set this precedent, we rob the people of their power."

LOAD-DATE: March 2, 2006

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Senate pushes map change that would divide Athens The Macon Telegraph (G

The Macon Telegraph (Georgia)

January 13, 2006 Friday

SECTION: B

LENGTH: 520 words

HEADLINE: Senate pushes map change that would divide Athens

BYLINE: Doug Gross, ASSOCIATED PRESS

BODY:

Republicans in the state Senate on Thursday pushed through a change to their chamber’s political map that would divide Athens - a Democratic stronghold - into two districts.

The plan’s sponsor called it an effort to honor a five-year-old request from commissioners in rural Madison County. But Democrat dubbed it an election-year ploy designed to hurt the chances of a House Democrat who is seeking the seat and help the brother-in-law of a Republican senator.

“This is a battle I’ve been fighting since 2001," said Sen. Ralph Hudgens, R-Connet, the plan's sponsor, who showed senators a 2001 letter from Madison County commissioners asking that their county remain whole.

But Democrats argued the plan appears aimed at hurting the odds of Rep. Jane Kidd, D-Athens, who has announced plans to run for the seat this year.

Under the proposed change, which passed 34-18, the district that currently includes all of Athens would include half of the city and Republican-leaning Walton County.

“We all know what’s happening here,” Kidd said across the Capitol in the House.

She called the bill "the most hypocritical of political moves" before being cut off by House Speaker Glenn Richardson, a Republican.

Bill Cowser, brother-in-law of current Sen. Brian Kemp, R-Athens, also has announced plans to seek the seat as a Republican.

Kemp is leaving the seat to run for state agriculture commissioner.

Republicans in the Legislature complained bitterly in 2001 when Democrats, who then controlled both chambers and the governor’s office, drew political maps they said unfairly carved up the state to maintain a hold on political power. One of their key complaints was that “communities of interest” - including cities, counties and towns - were unfairly divided between districts for political reasons.

A panel of federal judges ultimately tossed out those maps and redrew them when lawmakers could not agree on substitutes.

"Why would you go back and split counties after they argued not to split counties?" asked Sen. Tim Golden, D-Valdosta, the Senate's redistricting chairman in 2001. "It was wrong in 2001, but all of a sudden it’s all right?"

Kemp, who voted for the plan but did not argue for it during debate, said the new map would give Athens more influence in state government.

"With the University of Georgia there, it’s almost like representing two Senate districts already," Kemp said.

He denied trying to reshape the district to help his brother-in-law.

"I’m not worried about who’s running for the Senate," he said. "I’m looking at what’s best for my district in the future."

The change was the first bill considered on the floor of the Senate this year, leading some Democrats to question the priorities of majority Republicans.
Senate pushes map change that would divide Athens

"It wasn't about jobs and economic development, it wasn't about health care, it wasn't about trying to break up the insufferable Atlanta traffic," said Sen. David Adelman, D-Decatur. "I don't think that's anything we should be proud of."

Any changes to voting law in Georgia must be approved by the federal Department of Justice before they go into effect.

The bill now must be considered by the House.

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2006

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

January 12, 2006 Thursday 7:18 PM GMT

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL

LENGTH: 519 words

HEADLINE: Senate pushes map change that would divide Athens

BYLINE: By DOUG GROSS, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: ATLANTA

BODY:

Republicans in the state Senate on Thursday pushed through a change to their chamber's political map that would divide Athens a Democratic stronghold into two districts.

The plan's sponsor called it an effort to honor a five-year-old request from commissioners in rural Madison County. But Democrats dubbed it an election-year ploy designed to hurt the chances of a House Democrat who is seeking the seat and help the brother-in-law of a Republican senator.

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Senate pushes map change that would divide Athens The Associated Press

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NOTICE OF SUBMISSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 5
OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

Notice is hereby given that the Attorney General of the State of Georgia has submitted Act No. 436 (S.B. 386 of the 2005-06 Regular Session of the Georgia General Assembly), proposing changes to State Senate Districts 46, 47 and 49, in accordance with the State’s compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, to the Attorney General of the United States for preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. A complete duplicate copy of the submission is available for public inspection in the Elections Division of the Office the Secretary of State, Suite 1104, West Tower, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E. Atlanta, Georgia. All citizens desiring to comment on this submission may so by submitting those comments to:

Chief, Voting Section
Civil Rights Division
Room 7254 – NWB
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Deliveries by overnight express service such as Airborne, DHL, Federal Express or UPS should be addressed to:

Chief, Voting Section
Civil Rights Division
Room 7254 – NWB
Department of Justice
1800 G St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

GEORGIA VRA SUBMISSION 2006-03
EXHIBIT H