Perdue signs Hudgens' redistricting plan

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Perdue signs Hudgens' redistricting plan

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charge puts Madison County into one Senate district, divides Clarke

County's

Sen. Ralph Hudgens' controversial redistricting plan was signed by


Hudgens' proposal puts Madison County into one Senate district,

instead of two, while also separating Clarke County into two districts

with Governor Perdue's signature, Hudgens' redistricting plan now

goes to the U.S. Department of Justice for review before final

implementation.

Hudgens has said that he presented the plan in response to a 2001
request by the Madison County Board of Commissioners to put

...
Madison County into one senate district. Meanwhile, opponents of his plan have called it a case of gerrymandering and a stab at local Democrats.

"It was confusing to have some people (in Madison County) in one district and some in another," Hudgens said at January's Madison County Republican Party meeting. "If you look at the people who are against this plan, they're against it because it's bad for the Democratic Party. Yet, they accuse me of being partisan."

Former Republican county commissioner John Scoggins submitted a letter to The Journal this week characterizing Hudgens' redistricting proposal.

"The issue to me is not the gerrymandering itself, as gerrymandering has been around as long as politics," said Scoggins (in his letter on Page 5A). "My problem is with the process used and convoluted logic the senator tried to use to justify his justification for doing what he is attempting to do."

Gov. Perdue said the redistricting plan appears to be appropriate.

"I'm signing these bills because they appear to fall within the principles of redistricting," said Perdue in a press release about the plan. "At the same time, I recognize that redistricting will always be disputed, and so I'm exploring the viability of taking politics out of redistricting by studying the use of an Independent Redistricting Task Force."