

**(Without Reference to File)****CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS**

AB 604 (Aguiar-Curry and Gonzalez)

As Amended August 18, 2025

2/3 vote. Urgency

**SUMMARY**

Specifies the boundaries for California's congressional districts, to take effect only if the voters approve ACA 8 (Rivas and McGuire) of the current legislative session, and if another state voluntarily engages in mid-decade congressional redistricting, as specified.

**Senate Amendments**

Delete the Assembly-approved version of the bill, and instead:

- 1) Add legal descriptions of the boundaries of 52 congressional districts.
- 2) Provide that the district boundaries in this bill become operative only if ACA 8 (Rivas and McGuire) is approved by the voters, takes effect, and becomes operative because another state voluntarily puts a new congressional map into effect.
- 3) Provide that if any ambiguity or dispute arises regarding the location of a boundary line for the districts contained in this bill, the Secretary of State (SOS) and the elections official of each county shall rely on detailed maps posted by the Assembly Elections Committee and the Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments of the congressional districts boundaries proposed by this bill.
- 4) Sunset the provisions of this bill once a new congressional map is certified by the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) pursuant to the California Constitution.
- 5) Add a severability clause, and add an urgency clause, allowing this bill to take effect immediately upon enactment.

**COMMENTS**

"Redistricting" is the process by which the boundaries of districts of a governmental body are adjusted. Redistricting generally occurs at the beginning of each decade following the decennial federal census, when new district lines are adopted based on the census data so that the populations of each district of a governmental body are roughly equal.

The California Legislature last redrew the boundary lines of the congressional, State Senatorial, Assembly, and Board of Equalization (BOE) districts in 2001 based on the results of the 2000 census. Those district lines were finalized and approved in September 2001.

In 2008, California voters approved Proposition 11, which created the CRC, and gave it the responsibility for drawing district lines for the state Senate, Assembly, and the BOE. It also changed the criteria used when drawing those lines. In 2010, voters approved Proposition 20, which expanded the CRC's duties to include drawing California's congressional districts, and made additional changes to the procedures and criteria to be used by the CRC. The passage of Propositions 11 and 20 meant that the California Legislature did not play a direct role in adopting

district boundaries for congressional, legislative, and BOE districts following the 2010 and 2020 federal censuses.

Under current law, the districts drawn by the CRC after the 2020 census are scheduled to remain in place until the CRC adopts new maps following the 2030 census. Those new districts would take effect for regularly-scheduled elections in 2032 and beyond.

However, if ACA 8 (Rivas and McGuire) of the current legislative session is approved by voters and becomes operative because another state voluntarily engages in mid-decade congressional redistricting, the congressional district boundaries in this bill could be used for congressional elections in California as soon as the 2026 statewide elections.

More detailed information about the congressional districts proposed by this bill, including demographic details for each of the 52 proposed districts, an interactive map of the proposed district boundaries, and downloadable computer files (shapefiles and a block equivalency file) with geographic details about the proposed districts are available on the Assembly Elections Committee's website at <https://aelc.assembly.ca.gov/proposed-congressional-map>.

This bill contains a provision that specifies that if an ambiguity or dispute arises regarding the location of a boundary line in this bill, the SOS and county elections officials may rely on detailed maps posted by the Assembly Elections Committee and the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee of the congressional districts contained in this bill to resolve that ambiguity or dispute. This language is similar to language that was included in legislation (AB 632 (Cedillo), Chapter 348, Statutes of 2001 and SB 802 (Elections and Reapportionment Committee), Chapter 349, Statutes of 2001) when the California Legislature last redrew district boundary lines in 2001. As noted above, this committee's website already includes detailed information about the proposed districts, including an interactive map of the district boundaries.

### **According to the Author**

"AB 604 will protect Californians' interests in the national democratic process by presenting the voters with a temporary congressional district map to use if Texas or other states decide to conduct mid-decade, partisan gerrymandering of their congressional district maps. The temporary congressional district boundaries laid out in AB 604 follow the principles that California voters value most in establishing legislative districts. The proposed map maintains the geographic integrity of even more cities than the current map adopted by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Importantly, the temporary map in AB 604 will also ensure that communities of interest remain intact — a key principle of the constitutional amendment establishing the Citizens Redistricting Commission — to exercise their collective voice and vote to elect officials who truly represent them. AB 604 does all of this without diluting or favoring the voting power of any one voter over another. And, unlike any other congressional maps in use across the country today, the district map in AB 604 will go directly to California voters for their approval. AB 604 not only appropriately responds to the mid-cycle redistricting attempts by President Trump and Republicans in Texas and other states, but also adheres to redistricting principles that Californians hold dear — from protecting the many types of communities of interest in our state, to not favoring incumbents, to maintaining the geographic integrity of neighborhoods. The temporary congressional district lines proposed in AB 604 provide an effective response to the partisan gerrymander attempted by Texas and other states without eroding fair representation for all California voters and communities."

**Arguments in Support**

In support of this bill, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California writes, "At President Trump's urging, Texas Republicans plan to redraw their Congressional district map in an unprecedented attempt to "rig" the election in their favor before voting even begins. This dangerous election gaming puts politics over people and California must fight back. This is California's only opportunity to "check" the Trump administration's abuses of power to restrict civil rights and attack individual freedoms. AB 604, proposes draft California maps that respond to Texas' action in a transparent, time-limited manner that voters must approve."

**Arguments in Opposition**

In opposition to this bill, Alliance San Diego writes, "AB 604 is the vehicle for the legislature to approve new maps submitted by a partisan political action committee, which is problematic. The legislative timeline leaves no room for meaningful public input, and the bill does not include maps, but rather hundreds of pages of codes for census blocks, which are meaningless to the average member of the public. Given the manner in which redistricting bills are being presented to the public — as already decided — we are also concerned about violations of open meeting laws. The business of the public should be conducted in public, but that is not what appears to be happening right now."

**FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the SOS would incur administrative costs to the extent that specified ambiguities or disputes related to boundary lines occur. Workload to SOS would be driven by 1) the number of such ambiguities/disputes, and 2) their complexity and related resources needed to achieve resolution. Because both of these factors are unknown, the costs to SOS resulting from this bill cannot be determined. (General Fund).

**VOTES:**

**ASM ELECTIONS: Vote not relevant**

**YES:**

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Vote not relevant**

**YES:**

**NO:**

**ABS, ABST OR NV:**

**UPDATED**

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