

KENTUCKY HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Debate Over Redistricting Headed to Court

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Jan. 27, 2012) – This week the House Republican Floor Leader, Rep. Jeff Hoover, filed a lawsuit in Franklin Circuit Court regarding the district lines drawn for the 100 House districts by the House majority leadership. The suit will also seek an injunction that seeks to stop the new redistricting plan and postpone the January 31st filing deadline to seek public office.

Debate over district lines in both chambers has created a terse atmosphere in Frankfort, and confusion and anger among many of you. In the case of the House redistricting plan, 246 voting precincts would be split. What that means to you is not only confusion about where and who you can vote for in future elections, but also the cost to your county in buying new voting machines and hiring additional precinct workers. In Boone County alone the House redistricting plan drawn by the majority will cost \$90,000 in taxpayer money.

The redistricting process in this session also illustrates the problem that is created when legislators draw their own boundaries, which is often more about politics than people. Two fellow legislators filed bills this week seeking to make the process less political and more about good policy.

Representative Bill Farmer of Lexington filed House Bill 310, which if passed would create a seven person non-partisan board to handle redistricting. Each member would be appointed by the Kentucky Supreme Court Justices, one from each of the seven districts covered by the high court.

In addition Representative Tim Moore of Elizabethtown filed a similar proposal. His bill, House Bill 310 would create a 12 person panel to oversee redistricting. Under Rep. Moore's bill each of the four legislative caucuses in the House and Senate would appoint three members to the panel.

It's interesting to note that these bills have support from both Democrats and Republicans in the House. We understand how redistricting in this session has created anger and apathy about how we conduct business in Frankfort, and many of us are committed to coming up with a better way to redraw boundaries every 10 years.

In addition to House redistricting, it appears that Congressional redistricting may also head to court after a conference committee of House and Senate members could not reach an agreement on new boundaries.

As always, I welcome your comments and concerns for the upcoming session. I can be reached at (502) 400-3838, or through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. A taped message containing information on legislative committee meeting schedules is available by calling 1-800-633-9650, and information on the status of each bill is available by calling 1-866-840-2835. If you have Internet access, I can be reached at ron.crimm@lrc.ky.gov, or you may keep track of legislation through the Kentucky Legislature Home Page at www.lrc.ky.gov.

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