

DRAFTER'S NOTE
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-2296/P1dn
JTK:cjs:rs

June 28, 2011

Senator Fitzgerald:

1. The redraft of 2009 LRB-0193/P3 incorporates some minor changes to reflect the language included in the redistricting bill drafts. The draft also removes the definition of "ward" which is now located in the other drafts.
2. In the current round of local redistricting, the LRB became aware of another issue, not dealt with in this draft, that should be addressed, involving a situation where there is a prison with a large population located in a county with a relatively small population. Because all of the prisoners are included in the county population for purposes of supervisory district apportionment but because almost none of them are qualified electors, the census block containing the prison may exceed the average population of supervisory districts in the county, making it impossible to apportion the districts with substantially equal population. The ward size limit under s. 5.15 (2) (a), stats., may also be exceeded in the ward in which the prison is located. In addition, we have can have a situation in which a mere handful of electors (less than 10) could elect a county supervisor. The problem is most acute at the Jackson and Oxford correctional institutions. At a minimum, it would seem to be necessary to permit counties to subdivide a census block containing a prison by some rational means, such as prison cell numbers, and to attach a subdivided block to any other block that is adjacent to the prison property to create a supervisory district.

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