

HB 1197 – Violations of Apportionment Standards

This bill adds an **unranked, 3rd degree felony** for a member of the Legislature who “offers, or participates in the creation of, in bad faith or with malice, an apportionment plan that violates the standards for establishing congressional or legislative district boundaries prescribed in s. 20 or s. 21, Article III of the State Constitution.” These standards state that “no apportionment plan or district shall be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent; and districts shall not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice; and districts shall consist of contiguous territory.”

In FY 14-15, the incarceration rate for an unranked, 3rd degree felony was 9.9%. However, since the next reapportionment session will not occur until 2022, there will be no impact within the forecast window.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: No Impact within Forecast Window

Requested by: House