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LR 297, 494

the body. And I would like to thank Senator Bromm for cosponsoring this with me. First of all, I'd just like to say that I concur with the majority opinion at that last Executive Committee meeting, that it's probably better to do this through resolution rather than through statute. And my amendment goes to the part in Section 4, subsection (1), where it talks about this redistricting task force and what its responsibilities are. And there's actually two different phases. The first phase it talks about recommending substantive and procedural guidelines, and the second part of it is actually putting together the statistics, redrawing the congressional and other district boundaries, et cetera, the actual process of redistricting. My concern, when I saw this, was that we really do need to have some study take place on this before we actually get into session next year. If you go back and look at what happened in the early nineties on redistricting, you'll see that it was actually in 1990 that the Government Committee was looking at drawing up guidelines for its use. And there was a lot of study, I think the committee was well briefed and the understanding was good about what the process entailed. And so the import of my amendment is that it takes those two tasks that I was talking about and puts one this summer, and says that the LR 297...or LR 174 Task Force, which was continued in 2000 under LR 297, will continue to meet. And it will do a study on those substantive and procedural guidelines so that when the Legislature comes into session, in January, we'll be up and running, we'll be ready to present those procedural and substantive guidelines to the Legislature. And I think it's very important that we do this step now because it is a madhouse around here when you get to the actual redistricting. Probably the census figures will come in sometime maybe late February, and they could come as late as April, but probably some time in late February is when they will actually show up. And we need to be prepared at that time to begin looking at different plans, drawing different maps. And, if we know what our guidelines are already and don't have to be in the process of developing, then I think that's a positive. The other part about this and the only part that really...it doesn't trouble me, but I have a small concern over the fact that the task force will be meeting, not as a committee, not as a Standing Committee, but as an additional committee. And it is going to have a ton of work to do. And I have some small concern about how all of that will