

Department of Justice
Washington

February 11, 1972

Honorable Arthur K. Bolton
Attorney General
State of Georgia
132 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I am writing in reference to the redistricting plan for Georgia's U.S. Congressional Districts, submitted pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I am aware of the inherent difficulties faced by a legislature in devising a reapportionment plan of the type involved here. For that reason we have considered the plan in every detail, and find no basis for objecting to any portion of it except the boundaries of the proposed Fifth and Sixth Congressional Districts. With respect to those, after careful review of all the information available to us we have been unable to conclude, as we must under the Voting Rights Act, that these new boundaries will not have a discriminatory racial effect on voting by minimizing or diluting black voting strength in the Atlanta area. Consequently, I must on behalf of the Attorney General interpose an objection to the submitted Fifth and Sixth Congressional District boundaries.

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Of course, as provided in Section 5, you have the alternative of instituting an action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for a declaratory judgment that the new district lines do not have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color.

The submissions of the Georgia House and Senate redistricting plans were completed on January 6, 1972, with the Department's receipt of the population statistics by race. The 60-day period for objection to those plans thus expires on March 6, 1972. However, as I stated in my letter of December 23, 1971, we are giving expedited consideration to these plans and will make our decision on them as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

David L. Norman
DAVID L. NORMAN
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division