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HR688 makes Feb. 23 Ahmaud Arbery Day in Georgia

LOCAL REDISTRICTING

SB472 to redistrict the Public Service Commission (PSC) passed out of the Senate. The PSC oversees the cost of electricity and other utilities. PSC has five districts and candidates must live in a district to run for that seat. However, voters state-wide vote on all five seats. Democrats argued that the map was drawn to protect an incumbent and draws a potential challenger out of the district. They also claimed violation of the Voting Rights Act for racial discrimination. Georgia is one of the only states that does not have a regulatory agency overseeing utility pricing.

SR TBD will be proposed by Sen. Sheikh Rahman (D-5, Lawrenceville), to require bills for redistricting county commissions and school boards to always be treated as local legislation. This would prevent these bills from being sent to general committees in the legislature without approval from the majority of a local delegation. Circumventing the usual process for local bills, local legislation to redistrict Gwinnett, Cobb, Augusta-Richmond and Chatham counties was moved to general legislation allowing the entire legislature to make decisions about local redistricting.