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**FIVE CONGRESSIONAL SEATS WOULD CHANGE HANDS
ACCORDING TO A NEW *ELECTION DATA SERVICES* STUDY
OF 1995 POPULATION ESTIMATES**

Five congressional seats would shift among the states if the U.S. Congress were reapportioned today, according to a new study by Election Data Services, Inc., of 1995 population estimates just released by the Census Bureau. The study shows five states--Arizona, Georgia, Montana, Nevada, and Texas--each gaining one additional seat at the expense of Connecticut, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania, which would each lose one seat. (A copy of the study's findings are attached.)

A similar study last year based on 1994 data also showed five congressional seats changing hands. But the changes involved several different states. In this year's study, Nevada gains a seat, instead of California in last year's study. And Ohio loses a congressional seat in this year's study, instead of Mississippi last year.

An analysis of the new population estimates in light of previous studies reveals several interesting points, *were the 1995 population estimates to be used to apportion the Congress*:

California, which gained seven seats in the last official apportionment in 1990, lost its hold on an additional seat this year. In last year's study, the state held a population margin of over 66,000 for an additional seat, which was down from over 200,000 in the previous year. In the current study, California missed gaining an additional seat by a margin of more than 70,000. If the current downward trend continues and California were to receive no additional seat in the next apportionment in the year 2000, it would be the first time since 1850 that the Golden State's congressional delegation would not have grown.

Montana, which currently has one at-large representative, also has the nation's most populous congressional district. Montana was projected to gain an additional seat in studies this year and last year. If Montana's ranking among the states holds to the year 2000, it would become the first state in history to reclaim a congressional seat after having

dropped to single, at-large status.

Mississippi, projected to lose a congressional seat in studies last year and the year before, holds onto the 435th and last congressional seat in this year's study by a margin of only 405 people. Wisconsin, also in a precarious position near the bottom of the apportionment list in this year's study as well as previous studies, received the second-to-last seat with a margin of 6,571.

Ohio, heading a group of states next in line to receive a congressional seat in this year's study, just missed gaining an additional seat by a population margin of only 1,674. The next state on the list, Florida, missed by 2,880 people.

Connecticut continues to lose ground on its hope of holding onto its sixth congressional seat. In last year's study, Connecticut missed keeping that seat by a margin of 4,286 people. This year the margin increased to 28,137.

Illinois saw its margin for keeping its last congressional seat continue to dwindle, following a trend established in studies since 1990. Last year's study showed Illinois capturing its last seat by a margin of only 96,000 people. This year that margin dropped to only 76,000 people. In addition, the state moved from capturing seat number 431 in last year's study to seat number 433 in this year's study.

The size of the U.S. House of Representatives has been frozen at 435 seats for nearly the entire century.

Kimball Brace, the president of Election Data Services, Inc., noted that the Census Bureau's latest population estimates fail to include any adjustment for the undercount documented in the 1990 Census. The Supreme Court is currently reviewing a lower court ruling that favored an adjustment.

Election Data Services, Inc., is a Washington, D.C.-based firm engaged in reapportionment, redistricting, and election administration consulting. Additional copies of the apportionment study can be obtained by calling (202) 789-2004.