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Rep. Adams moves to High Street

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ANDOVER — State Rep. Paul Adams is moving across town, setting the stage for a re-election campaign to the 17th Essex House district next year.

The Andover Republican on Tuesday started moving his belongings from 12 Berkeley Lane — a house he shared with his parents — to an apartment at 58 High St. He said he expects to be completely moved in by the end of the weekend.

The move was needed for the freshman state representative to seek re-election in his current district, after the state's redistricting plan unveiled earlier this month placed Adams' home in the 18th Essex House district, currently represented by fellow Andover Republican Jim Lyons.

"I pretty much knew changes were coming to the district, so I started to prepare to move," Adams said. He said he knew about the changes to his district several weeks before the maps were officially released on Oct. 18.

Adams has a Nov. 6 deadline to establish residency in the reconfigured district to qualify to run for re-election in the same district. He said he signed the lease for his new apartment and changed his voter registration on Tuesday, Oct. 25.

He's now registered in precinct 3, which is included in the reconfigured 17th Essex House district.

Adams said it isn't unique for a state representative to move to remain in same district when running for re-election during redistricting.

Two other freshmen Reps. Paul Mark, D-Hancock, and Gailanne Cariddi, D-North Adams, were also lumped into one district during the redistricting process. Mark said he'll move to remain in the same district.

The state adjusts the boundaries of legislative districts every 10 years based on new Census numbers. The 2010 Census showed large population increases for Methuen and Lawrence, prompting the committee to take a close look at Merrimack Valley districts, with an eye toward creating new districts dominated by Latino voters.

Lawrence's Hispanic population has grown by 13,344 residents, a 31 percent increase. The new proposal reshapes Adams' 17th Essex District to create a second Lawrence-based "majority-minority" district, with 56.3 percent of the district's voters of Hispanic origin.

Adams said he looks forward to the opportunity to serve in the reconfigured district, if re-elected.

"I look forward to getting to the residents of North Lawrence that I don't already represent," Adams said. "I currently represent six of the precincts. They gave me a few more. Many Lawrencians already know me as their neighbor and voice on Beacon Hill."

Material from the State House News Service was used in this report.

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