



Rep. André Thapedi

Filed: 2/7/2019

10100HB0928ham001

LRB101 07822 RJF 56082 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 928

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 928 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the 2020
5 Census Grant Program Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative findings. The General Assembly
7 finds that:

8 (1) Section 2 of Article 1 of the United States
9 Constitution requires a non-biased and nonpolitical
10 enumeration of the population of the United States every 10
11 years, which is known as the federal decennial census;

12 (2) the federal decennial census is important because
13 census figures affect congressional representation, State
14 redistricting, federal formula grant allocations, State
15 funding to local governments, local programs, and planning
16 activities for the next 10 years;

1 (3) the federal decennial census not only counts
2 population, but also: (i) establishes representation
3 decisions for federal, State, and local governments; (ii)
4 is the basis upon which federal funding is allocated for
5 programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and the National
6 School Lunch Program; and (iii) guides business decisions
7 regarding labor pools and investment choices;

8 (4) because federal decennial census data are used in
9 political, business, and social welfare contexts, the
10 accuracy of the count is critical;

11 (5) Congress has underfunded the U.S. Commerce
12 Department's budget to conduct the 2020 Census, causing the
13 Census Bureau to cancel certain preparations that would
14 test the Census Bureau's new digital tools;

15 (6) the Census Bureau plans for 80% of the country to
16 receive communications that urge a response to the census
17 via the Internet;

18 (7) the Census Bureau's reliance on the Internet is
19 worrisome because 21% of rural households do not currently
20 have Internet access at home, putting rural residents at
21 risk of being undercounted;

22 (8) in fiscal year 2015, the 50 states and the District
23 of Columbia received \$589,700,000,000 from 16 large
24 federal assistance programs that allocate funds on the
25 basis of federal decennial census-derived statistics;

26 (9) according to the George Washington University

1 Institute for Public Policy, in fiscal year 2015, Illinois
2 received \$19,738,866,367, or approximately \$1,535 per
3 capita, for 16 major federal assistance programs that
4 distribute funds based on federal decennial census-derived
5 statistics;

6 (10) a complete and accurate count of all Illinois
7 residents in the 2020 Census is vital to ensure fair
8 political representation and distribution of funding in
9 Illinois;

10 (11) historically, it has been more difficult to reach
11 and enumerate certain groups as part of the federal
12 decennial census, including, but not limited to, racial and
13 ethnic minorities, persons who do not speak English
14 fluently, lower income persons, homeless persons,
15 undocumented immigrants, young mobile persons, children,
16 persons who are distrustful of the government, and LGBTQ
17 persons;

18 (12) a geographic area is considered hard-to-count if
19 the area's self-response rate in the 2010 decennial census
20 was 73% or less;

21 (13) according to the Census 2020 hard-to-count map
22 application developed by the City University of New York
23 Mapping Service, approximately 16% of Illinoisans are
24 hard-to-count and face a high likelihood of being
25 undercounted;

26 (14) there are census tracts in jurisdictions

1 throughout the State where achieving an accurate count of
2 the population is challenging, including the counties of
3 Cook, DeKalb, Pulaski, Kankakee, Peoria, Alexander,
4 Jackson, Coles, Champaign, St. Clair, McDonough,
5 Winnebago, and Lake;

6 (15) the U.S. Government Accountability Office added
7 the 2020 Census to the High Risk list because of concerns
8 about funding and effective operations, increasing
9 concerns about an undercount of the population; and

10 (16) adequate funding is necessary to ensure a complete
11 and accurate count of all people in this State, and it is
12 the intent of the General Assembly that existing
13 governmental outreach and education efforts be used to
14 facilitate a complete count for the 2020 Census.

15 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

16 "2020 Census" means the decennial census conducted by the
17 United States Census Bureau in the year 2020 to determine the
18 number of people living in the United States for purposes of
19 apportionment of representatives in the House of
20 Representatives.

21 "Grant Panel" means the 2020 Census Grant Program Panel.

22 Section 15. 2020 Census Grant Program.

23 (a) There is created the 2020 Census Grant Program for the
24 purpose of issuing grants to units of local government and

1 nonprofit organizations to support the accurate counting of the
2 population of the State and its local jurisdictions, and the
3 collection of basic demographic and housing information of the
4 population of this State for the 2020 Census.

5 (b) There is created the 2020 Census Grant Program Panel.
6 The Grant Panel shall consist of the following members:

7 (i) a chair appointed jointly by the President of the
8 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

9 (ii) two members appointed by the Governor; and

10 (iii) two members appointed jointly by the President of
11 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

12 (c) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
13 shall provide staff and administrative support for the Grant
14 Panel. A member of the Grant Panel shall not receive
15 compensation for service as a member of the Grant Panel, but is
16 entitled to reimbursement for necessary travel expenses
17 incurred by the member.

18 (d) On or before July 1, 2019, a unit of local government
19 or nonprofit organization may apply to the Grant Panel for
20 funds to support the accurate counting of the population of its
21 jurisdiction or the State and the collection of basic
22 demographic and housing information of the population of the
23 State for the 2020 Census.

24 (e) On or before August 1, 2019, the Grant Panel shall
25 award funds, in an amount determined by the Grant Panel, to
26 units of local government and nonprofit organizations for

1 approved applications.

2 (f) The Grant Panel shall notify units of local government
3 of the 2020 Census Grant Program. Units of local government
4 receiving notice from the Grant Panel under this subsection (f)
5 shall notify nonprofit organizations within the jurisdiction
6 of the unit of local government of the 2020 Census Grant
7 Program.

8 (g) For fiscal year 2020, the Governor shall include in the
9 annual State budget for the 2020 Census Grant Program an
10 appropriation of \$33,000,000.

11 Section 20. Program application.

12 (a) Applicants for these grants shall use the grant
13 application format prepared and made available by the Grant
14 Panel for this purpose. The applications will be available on
15 the website of the Department of Commerce and Economic
16 Opportunity. Public agencies and private sector entities shall
17 be eligible to apply for these grants. Each applicant shall
18 describe itself, whether it is a public agency or private
19 sector entity. Each private sector entity shall describe
20 itself, including its legal status (corporation, joint
21 venture, partnership, or not-for-profit) and its mission. All
22 private sector entities must be authorized to do business in
23 the State of Illinois or, if a not-for-profit entity,
24 authorized to conduct affairs in Illinois. Applicants shall
25 designate that they are applying for a grant to encourage

1 census participation in hard to count communities and of hard
2 to count persons, and shall designate the amount of grant funds
3 being requested. Each application shall include a detailed,
4 narrative statement describing the proposed use of the grant
5 funds. Each applicant also shall provide:

6 (1) project director name, with contact information;

7 (2) description of ability to administer the Grant;

8 (3) project title;

9 (4) project description;

10 (5) target audience and need;

11 (6) project schedule;

12 (7) methods for evaluating outcome; and

13 (8) proposed budget, details, and explanation of
14 expenses.

15 (b) Grant applicants must demonstrate in their grant
16 applications that they have satisfactorily met all
17 requirements set forth in this Section, and they possess the
18 administrative capacity to perform the program, fiscal and
19 reporting functions stipulated in this Section.

20 (c) The Grant Panel may deny a grant application if the
21 requirements in this Section are not met, or are inadequately
22 met. The Grant Panel shall not discriminate on the basis of
23 race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin,
24 disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military
25 status in the awarding of grants.

26 (d) Grant applications not submitted in the required format

1 by the deadline date set forth in subsection (d) of Section 15,
2 or not completed, shall not be considered for funding by the
3 Grant Panel.

4 (e) This shall be a competitive grant application process.
5 A grant review committee shall review all grant applications
6 and make recommendations to the Grant Panel rewarding grant
7 awards. The following requirements shall apply to the grant
8 review committee:

9 (1) The grant review committee shall consist of
10 personnel of the Department of Commerce and Economic
11 Opportunity, designated members of the Complete Count
12 Commission, and, at the discretion of the Grant Panel,
13 additional qualified reviewers.

14 (2) Any additional reviewers shall be selected based on
15 their academic qualifications and their vocational and
16 volunteer experience related to the subject matter of the
17 grant.

18 (3) No person shall serve on a grant review committee
19 if that person is an applicant for the grant, is employed
20 by an applicant for the grant, has an ownership interest in
21 or receives income from an applicant for the grant, or is
22 related more closely than the fifth degree of consanguinity
23 (second cousins) to an owner or employee of an applicant
24 for the grant.

25 (4) Members of the grant review committee shall
26 independently consider the following criteria, and assign

1 weighted scores up to the total amount of points indicated:

2 (A) Abstract. Does the project overview
3 appropriately communicate the proposed project? (25
4 points)

5 (B) Administrative capacity. Does the applicant
6 have adequate experience and qualifications to
7 accomplish the proposed project? Is the applicant a
8 known and trusted voice in the community to be served?
9 (100 points)

10 (C) Project description. Has the applicant
11 provided a comprehensive description of the project,
12 including details about methods, activities, and
13 services to be provided in light of the legislative
14 findings of Section 5? If the applicant is partnering
15 with any other entity, is that partnership fully
16 explained, and are those entities known and trusted
17 voices in the communities to be served? (200 points)

18 (D) Target audience and need. Has the applicant
19 identified the intended audience and its need for
20 services proposed? With regard to grant applications
21 to encourage participation in the census, and noting
22 that based on the latest census estimates
23 approximately 16% of Illinois' current population
24 lives in hard-to-count neighborhoods, has the
25 applicant set forth a plan for identifying and working
26 in these hard-to-count neighborhoods? (500 points)

1 (E) Project schedule. Does the applicant's
2 timeline clearly illustrate appropriate scheduling of
3 proposed actions and activities? (50 points)

4 (F) Evaluation. Is the methodology and strategy
5 that the applicant will use to evaluate the success of
6 the project reasonable? (25 points)

7 (G) Budget. Is the proposed budget reasonable,
8 necessary, appropriate, and adequate to perform the
9 proposed services? (100 points)

10 For purposes of this grant application and review
11 process:

12 "Community provider" means an entity that has the
13 capability to provide services or goods to designated
14 communities as necessary to complete the requirements of
15 the grant.

16 "Census participation" means the act of responding to
17 the census questionnaire by mail, phone, or online.

18 (f) The total sum appropriated for a particular purpose may
19 be awarded to a single applicant, or that sum may be divided
20 into awards to multiple applicants. If grants are awarded to
21 multiple applicants, each selected application shall be funded
22 according to the amount of funding available based on the
23 comparative demonstrated need, experience executing the
24 proposed program or plan, and projected outcomes.

25 (g) All grant applicants shall be notified whether or not
26 their application has been approved. The decision of the Grant

1 Panel regarding the award of grants under this Section is
2 final.

3 (h) The Grant Panel shall notify the submitting entity when
4 an application is approved. All approved applicants shall enter
5 into a grant agreement provided by the Grant Panel before any
6 grant funds will be distributed.

7 Section 25. Grant reporting requirements.

8 (a) As stipulated by the grant agreement, the following
9 reports shall be completed and transmitted to the Department of
10 Commerce and Economic Opportunity by each grant recipient:

11 (1) monthly narrative and financial reports showing
12 expenditures made from grant funds by line item;

13 (2) a final financial report showing all expenditures
14 of grant funds and the return of any non-expended grant
15 funds; and

16 (3) a final narrative report evaluating the degree to
17 which the grantee achieved the goals and objectives of the
18 project.

19 (b) The Grant Panel may request additional information and
20 data from any grant applicant.

21 (c) Grants awarded under this Section are subject to the
22 Grant Accountability and Transparency Act, and the Grant Panel
23 shall not consider grant applications submitted by entities
24 included in the Illinois Debarred and Suspended List maintained
25 by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

1 (d) Grant recipients shall maintain books and records
2 relating to the expenditure of grant funds. Books and records,
3 including information stored in computer systems, shall be
4 maintained by the grant recipient for a period of 3 years from
5 the later of the date of the final grant payment or the
6 completion of the projects for which the grant was issued.
7 Books and records required to be maintained under this Section
8 shall be available for review or audit by the Department of
9 Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Attorney General, or the
10 Auditor General. Failure to maintain books and records required
11 by this Section shall establish a presumption in favor of the
12 Grant Panel for the recovery of any grant funds, attorney's
13 fees, and costs paid by the Grant Panel or its designee.

14 (e) Grants made under this Section are subject to the
15 provisions of the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act. Actions
16 brought under that Act may include, but are not limited to, a
17 grant recipient's failure to spend funds in accordance with the
18 application or approved amendment or the failure to comply with
19 reporting procedures stipulated in this Section. If a provision
20 of this Section conflicts with a provision of the Illinois
21 Grant Funds Recovery Act, then the provision of the Illinois
22 Grant Funds Recovery Act controls.

23 (f) Obligations of the Grant Panel to fund this Grant
24 Program will cease immediately without penalty or further
25 payment being required if the funds for the grants are not
26 available to the Grant Panel.

1 Section 30. Repeal. This Act is repealed on January 1,
2 2022.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
4 becoming law.".