



HR0227

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Once a decade, America comes together to count
3 every resident in the United States, creating national
4 awareness of the importance of the census and its valuable
5 statistics; the decennial census was first taken in 1790, as
6 mandated by the Constitution; it counts our population and
7 households, providing the basis for reapportioning
8 congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than
9 \$675 billion in federal funds annually to support states,
10 counties, and communities' vital programs - impacting housing,
11 education, transportation, employment, health care, and public
12 policy; and

13 WHEREAS, The next census is coming in 2020; counting an
14 increasingly diverse and growing population is a massive
15 undertaking; it requires years of planning and the support of
16 thousands of people; and

17 WHEREAS, Ultimately, the success of the census depends on
18 everyone's participation; the Census Bureau depends on
19 cross-sector collaborations with organizations and individuals
20 to get people to participate; and

21 WHEREAS, The 2020 Census is important to Illinois; the
22 census affects our State's voice in government, how much

1 funding our communities receive, and how our communities will
2 plan for the future; and

3 WHEREAS, The census is about fair representation; every ten
4 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the
5 House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state
6 gets; and

7 WHEREAS, The census is part of every individual's civic
8 duty; it is a way to participate in our democracy; and

9 WHEREAS, The census is about redistricting; state
10 officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their
11 congressional and state legislative districts, adapting to
12 population shifts; and

13 WHEREAS, Data collected is confidential; federal law
14 protects census responses, and answers can only be used to
15 produce statistics; information cannot be shared with
16 immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or
17 any agency that determines eligibility for government
18 benefits; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition, the census benefits each of our
20 communities; federal funds, grants, and support to states,
21 counties, and communities are based on population totals and

1 breakdowns by sex, age, race, and other factors; our
2 communities benefit the most when the census counts everyone;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Census data is used in all kinds of ways;
5 residents use the census to support community initiatives
6 involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy;
7 businesses use Census Bureau data to decide where to build
8 factories, offices, and stores, and these create jobs; local
9 government officials use the census to ensure public safety and
10 plan new schools and hospitals; real estate developers and city
11 planners use the census to plan new homes and improve
12 neighborhoods; and

13 WHEREAS, There are a variety of reasons people do not
14 participate in the decennial census; they might think it will
15 not have an impact on their life, or they might be afraid of
16 sharing information with the government; they might have
17 trouble completing a census form or feel they do not have the
18 time to commit to completing the form; and

19 WHEREAS, Every citizen of Illinois can help with the
20 efforts to obtain an accurate census by making sure people know
21 what the census is and how census data are used, and by
22 encouraging everyone to participate; and

1 WHEREAS, The U.S. Census Bureau will host a live
2 operational press briefing to mark the one year out milestone
3 from the 2020 Census; on April 1, 2019, Census Bureau Director
4 Dr. Steven Dillingham and Census Bureau leadership will brief
5 the public on the status of operations and provide updates on
6 the success of the integrated partnership and communication
7 campaign; the Census Bureau will also be joined on stage by
8 several organizations that highlight a handful of the
9 partnerships that are key to ensuring a successful 2020 Census;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Additionally, Census Bureau leaders will be
12 available to discuss national hiring efforts and highlight what
13 partners and other stakeholders can do to ensure complete and
14 accurate counts in communities across the country; therefore,
15 be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we encourage every citizen in the State to support efforts to
19 insure an accurate census in 2020; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we declare April 1, 2019 as "Census Day in
21 Illinois", the one year mark until the 2020 Census kicks off.