



Rep. André Thapedi

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 1621

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 1621 as follows:

3 on page 1, immediately below line 3, by inserting the
4 following:

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

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

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

13 (2) the federal decennial census is important because
14 census figures affect congressional representation, State
15 redistricting, federal formula grant allocations, State

1 funding to local governments, local programs, and planning
2 activities for the next 10 years;

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

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

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

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

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

24 (8) in fiscal year 2015, the 50 states and the District
25 of Columbia received \$589,700,000,000 from 16 large
26 federal assistance programs that allocate funds on the

1 basis of federal decennial census-derived statistics;

2 (9) according to the George Washington University
3 Institute for Public Policy, in fiscal year 2015, Illinois
4 received \$19,738,866,367, or approximately \$1,535 per
5 capita, for 16 major federal assistance programs that
6 distribute funds based on federal decennial census-derived
7 statistics;

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

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

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

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

1 undercounted;

2 (14) there are census tracts in jurisdictions
3 throughout the State where achieving an accurate count of
4 the population is challenging, including the counties of
5 Cook, DeKalb, Pulaski, Kankakee, Peoria, Alexander,
6 Jackson, Coles, Champaign, St. Clair, McDonough,
7 Winnebago, and Lake;

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

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

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

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

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

24 Section 15. 2020 Census Grant Program.

1 (a) There is created the 2020 Census Grant Program for the
2 purpose of issuing grants to units of local government and
3 nonprofit organizations to support the accurate counting of the
4 population of the State and its local jurisdictions, and the
5 collection of basic demographic and housing information of the
6 population of this State for the 2020 Census.

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

9 (i) one member appointed by the Governor;

10 (ii) one member appointed by the President of the
11 Senate;

12 (iii) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of
13 the Senate;

14 (iv) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House
15 of Representatives; and

16 (v) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
17 House of Representatives.

18 The 5 members of the Grant Panel appointed under this
19 subsection (b) shall meet and elect a chair from among their
20 number.

21 (c) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
22 shall provide staff and administrative support for the Grant
23 Panel. A member of the Grant Panel shall not receive
24 compensation for service as a member of the Grant Panel, but is
25 entitled to reimbursement for necessary travel expenses
26 incurred by the member.

1 (d) On or before July 1, 2019, a unit of local government
2 or nonprofit organization may apply to the Grant Panel for
3 funds to support the accurate counting of the population of its
4 jurisdiction or the State and the collection of basic
5 demographic and housing information of the population of the
6 State for the 2020 Census.

7 (e) On or before August 1, 2019, the Grant Panel shall
8 award funds, in an amount determined by the Grant Panel, to
9 units of local government and nonprofit organizations for
10 approved applications.

11 (f) The Grant Panel shall notify units of local government
12 of the 2020 Census Grant Program. Units of local government
13 receiving notice from the Grant Panel under this subsection (f)
14 shall notify nonprofit organizations within the jurisdiction
15 of the unit of local government of the 2020 Census Grant
16 Program.

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

20 Section 20. Program application.

21 (a) Applicants for these grants shall use the grant
22 application format prepared and made available by the Grant
23 Panel for this purpose. The applications will be available on
24 the website of the Department of Commerce and Economic
25 Opportunity. Public agencies and private sector entities shall

1 be eligible to apply for these grants. Each applicant shall
2 describe itself, whether it is a public agency or private
3 sector entity. Each private sector entity shall describe
4 itself, including its legal status (corporation, joint
5 venture, partnership, or not-for-profit) and its mission. All
6 private sector entities must be authorized to do business in
7 the State of Illinois or, if a not-for-profit entity,
8 authorized to conduct affairs in Illinois. Applicants shall
9 designate that they are applying for a grant to encourage
10 census participation in hard to count communities and of hard
11 to count persons, and shall designate the amount of grant funds
12 being requested. Each application shall include a detailed,
13 narrative statement describing the proposed use of the grant
14 funds. Each applicant also shall provide:

- 15 (1) project director name, with contact information;
- 16 (2) description of ability to administer the Grant;
- 17 (3) project title;
- 18 (4) project description;
- 19 (5) target audience and need;
- 20 (6) project schedule;
- 21 (7) methods for evaluating outcome; and
- 22 (8) proposed budget, details, and explanation of
23 expenses.

24 (b) Grant applicants must demonstrate in their grant
25 applications that they have satisfactorily met all
26 requirements set forth in this Section, and they possess the

1 administrative capacity to perform the program, fiscal and
2 reporting functions stipulated in this Section.

3 (c) The Grant Panel may deny a grant application if the
4 requirements in this Section are not met, or are inadequately
5 met. The Grant Panel shall not discriminate on the basis of
6 race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin,
7 disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military
8 status in the awarding of grants.

9 (d) Grant applications not submitted in the required format
10 by the deadline date set forth in subsection (d) of Section 15,
11 or not completed, shall not be considered for funding by the
12 Grant Panel.

13 (e) This shall be a competitive grant application process.
14 A grant review committee shall review all grant applications
15 and make recommendations to the Grant Panel regarding grant
16 awards. The following requirements shall apply to the grant
17 review committee:

18 (1) The grant review committee shall consist of
19 personnel of the Department of Commerce and Economic
20 Opportunity, designated members of the Complete Count
21 Commission, and, at the discretion of the Grant Panel,
22 additional qualified reviewers.

23 (2) Any additional reviewers shall be selected based on
24 their academic qualifications and their vocational and
25 volunteer experience related to the subject matter of the
26 grant.

1 (3) No person shall serve on a grant review committee
2 if that person is an applicant for the grant, is employed
3 by an applicant for the grant, has an ownership interest in
4 or receives income from an applicant for the grant, or is
5 related more closely than the fifth degree of consanguinity
6 (second cousins) to an owner or employee of an applicant
7 for the grant.

8 (4) Members of the grant review committee shall
9 independently consider the following criteria, and assign
10 weighted scores up to the total amount of points indicated:

11 (A) Abstract. Does the project overview
12 appropriately communicate the proposed project? (25
13 points)

14 (B) Administrative capacity. Does the applicant
15 have adequate experience and qualifications to
16 accomplish the proposed project? Is the applicant a
17 known and trusted voice in the community to be served?
18 (100 points)

19 (C) Project description. Has the applicant
20 provided a comprehensive description of the project,
21 including details about methods, activities, and
22 services to be provided in light of the legislative
23 findings of Section 5? If the applicant is partnering
24 with any other entity, is that partnership fully
25 explained, and are those entities known and trusted
26 voices in the communities to be served? (200 points)

1 (D) Target audience and need. Has the applicant
2 identified the intended audience and its need for
3 services proposed? With regard to grant applications
4 to encourage participation in the census, and noting
5 that based on the latest census estimates
6 approximately 16% of Illinois' current population
7 lives in hard-to-count neighborhoods, has the
8 applicant set forth a plan for identifying and working
9 in these hard-to-count neighborhoods? (500 points)

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

13 (F) Evaluation. Is the methodology and strategy
14 that the applicant will use to evaluate the success of
15 the project reasonable? (25 points)

16 (G) Budget. Is the proposed budget reasonable,
17 necessary, appropriate, and adequate to perform the
18 proposed services? (100 points)

19 For purposes of this grant application and review
20 process:

21 "Community provider" means an entity that has the
22 capability to provide services or goods to designated
23 communities as necessary to complete the requirements of
24 the grant.

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

1 (f) The total sum appropriated for a particular purpose may
2 be awarded to a single applicant, or that sum may be divided
3 into awards to multiple applicants. If grants are awarded to
4 multiple applicants, each selected application shall be funded
5 according to the amount of funding available based on the
6 comparative demonstrated need, experience executing the
7 proposed program or plan, and projected outcomes.

8 (g) All grant applicants shall be notified whether or not
9 their application has been approved. The decision of the Grant
10 Panel regarding the award of grants under this Section is
11 final.

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

16 Section 25. Grant reporting requirements.

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

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

22 (2) a final financial report showing all expenditures
23 of grant funds and the return of any non-expended grant
24 funds; and

25 (3) a final narrative report evaluating the degree to

1 which the grantee achieved the goals and objectives of the
2 project.

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

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

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

23 (e) Grants made under this Section are subject to the
24 provisions of the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act. Actions
25 brought under that Act may include, but are not limited to, a
26 grant recipient's failure to spend funds in accordance with the

1 application or approved amendment or the failure to comply with
2 reporting procedures stipulated in this Section. If a provision
3 of this Section conflicts with a provision of the Illinois
4 Grant Funds Recovery Act, then the provision of the Illinois
5 Grant Funds Recovery Act controls.

6 (f) Obligations of the Grant Panel to fund this Grant
7 Program will cease immediately without penalty or further
8 payment being required if the funds for the grants are not
9 available to the Grant Panel.

10 Section 30. Repeal. This Act is repealed on January 1,
11 2022."; and

12 on page 1, line 4, by replacing "Section 5." with "Section
13 100."; and

14 on page 6, line 26, by replacing "Section 99." with "Section
15 999.".