STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018  

SENATE RESOLUTION  
RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CREATE A “RHODE ISLAND COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE” TO DEVELOP, RECOMMEND, AND ASSIST IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF A CENSUS OUTREACH STRATEGY TO ENCOURAGE FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE 2020 CENSUS

Introduced By: Senator Sandra Cano  
Date Introduced: June 22, 2018  
Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution requires an enumeration of the population every ten years to apportion congressional representation among the states; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 141 of Title 13 of the United States Code, the next federal decennial census of the population will be taken on April 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, A complete and accurate count of Rhode Island’s population is essential to the state, because the census count determines congressional representation, state redistricting, and federal formula grant allocations for an entire decade until the next decennial census is taken; and

WHEREAS, It is vitally important for Rhode Island to do everything it can to ensure that every Rhode Islander is counted in the upcoming census; and

WHEREAS, A complete count committee, using local knowledge and expertise will develop and coordinate a census outreach program to increase awareness about the census and motivate residents in the community to respond; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests the Governor of the State of Rhode Island to create a “Rhode Island Complete Count Committee”; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the membership of said committee should include thirty-one (31)
members: one of whom shall be the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor of the State of Rhode Island; one of whom shall be the President of the Senate, or designee; one of whom shall be the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or designee; one of whom shall be the Minority Leader of the Senate, or designee; one of whom shall be the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, or designee; one of whom shall be the Rhode Island Secretary of State, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chief of Library Services for the State of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the Associate Director of the Division of Statewide Planning, or designee; five (5) of whom shall be individuals representing units of local government, one from a community greater than one hundred thousand (100,000) in population, one from a community between fifty thousand (50,000) and one hundred thousand (100,000) in population, two (2) from communities between ten thousand (10,000) and fifty thousand (50,000) in population, and one from a community less than ten thousand (10,000) in population, with due consideration given to geographic diversity within the state, to be appointed by the Governor; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, or designee; five (5) of whom shall be representatives of different organizations representing the interests of hard-to-count populations in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; one of whom shall be a member of a federally recognized tribe located in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; two (2) of whom shall be individuals representing the interests of business in the state, including one organization representing minority business interests, to be appointed by the Governor; two (2) of whom shall be individuals representing educational interests, including elementary and secondary and higher education in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; two (2) of whom shall be individuals representing faith communities in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; one of whom shall be an individual representing youth in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; one of whom shall be an individual representing the philanthropic community in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; one of whom shall be an individual representing the health care community in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; and one of whom shall be an individual representing senior citizens in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Governor, or designee, should serve as a co-chairperson of the committee and the Governor’s appointee should serve as a co-chairperson of the committee. The committee should meet at the call of either co-chair or upon request of any ten (10) members of the committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Committee would develop, recommend, and assist in the administration of a census outreach strategy to encourage full participation in the 2020 federal
decennial census of population. The census outreach strategy would include, but not be limited to,
state agency initiatives to encourage participation in the 2020 Census, the establishment and
support of school-based outreach programs, partnerships with nonprofit community-based
organizations, and a multi-lingual, multi-media campaign designed to ensure an accurate and
complete count of Rhode Island’s population; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Committee would collaborate and coordinate with the United
States Bureau of the Census and any other complete count committees established in the State of
Rhode Island in identifying and carrying out the state’s outreach strategy. The Committee's
outreach strategy would be coordinated through the Office of the Governor which would provide
administrative support to the committee and coordinate with all state agencies and constitutional
officers, as well as units of local government, to identify effective methods of outreach to Rhode
Islanders and to provide resources to ensure the outreach program is successful and that all Rhode
Islanders are counted; and be it further

RESOLVED, To assist in carrying out its duties, the committee would create and appoint
subcommittees as it deems appropriate and shall solicit participation from relevant experts and
practitioners involved in census issues; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby requests that the Committee submit an interim
report to the General Assembly on or before January 15, 2019, containing its recommended
outreach strategy to encourage full participation and to avoid an undercount in the 2020 Census;
thereafter, the Committee shall submit its final report to the General Assembly not later than June
30, 2019, specifying its recommended outreach strategy for implementation for the 2020 Census,
and said Committee shall expire on December 31, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Gina Raimondo, Governor of the
State of Rhode Island.