

2018 -- S 2973

LC005897

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO BE KNOWN AS THE "RHODE ISLAND COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE"

Introduced By: Senator Sandra Cano

Date Introduced: June 14, 2018

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

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

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

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

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

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

15 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission to be known as "The Rhode Island  
16 Complete Count Committee" be and the same is hereby created consisting of thirty-one (31)  
17 members: one of whom shall be the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, or designee; one of  
18 whom shall be appointed by the Governor of the State of Rhode Island; one of whom shall be the  
19 President of the Senate, or designee; one of whom shall be the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives, or designee; one of whom shall be the Minority Leader of the Senate, or  
2 designee; one of whom shall be the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, or  
3 designee; one of whom shall be the Rhode Island Secretary of State, or designee; one of whom  
4 shall be the Chief of Library Services for the State of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom  
5 shall be the Associate Director of the Division of Statewide Planning, or designee; five (5) of  
6 whom shall be individuals representing units of local government, one from a community greater  
7 than one hundred thousand (100,000) in population, one from a community between fifty  
8 thousand (50,000) and one hundred thousand (100,000) in population, two (2) from communities  
9 between ten thousand (10,000) and fifty thousand (50,000) in population, and one from a  
10 community less than ten thousand (10,000) in population, with due consideration given to  
11 geographic diversity within the state, to be appointed by the Governor; one of whom shall be the  
12 Executive Director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, or designee; five (5) of  
13 whom shall be representatives of different organizations representing the interests of hard-to-  
14 count populations in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; one of whom shall be a member  
15 of a federally recognized tribe located in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; two (2) of  
16 whom shall be individuals representing the interests of business in the state, including one  
17 organization representing minority business interests, to be appointed by the Governor; two (2) of  
18 whom shall be individuals representing educational interests, including elementary and secondary  
19 and higher education in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; two (2) of whom shall be  
20 individuals representing faith communities in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; one of  
21 whom shall be an individual representing youth in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; one  
22 of whom shall be an individual representing the philanthropic community in the state, to be  
23 appointed by the Governor; one of whom shall be an individual representing the health care  
24 community in the state, to be appointed by the Governor; and one of whom shall be an individual  
25 representing senior citizens in the state, to be appointed by the Governor.

26         The Governor, or designee, shall serve as a co-chairperson of the committee and the  
27 Governor's appointee shall serve as a co-chairperson of the committee. The committee shall meet  
28 at the call of either co-chair or upon request of any ten (10) members of the committee.

29         The purpose of The Rhode Island Complete Count Committee shall be to develop,  
30 recommend, and assist in the administration of a census outreach strategy to encourage full  
31 participation in the 2020 federal decennial census of population.

32         The census outreach strategy shall include, but not be limited to, state agency initiatives  
33 to encourage participation in the 2020 Census, the establishment and support of school-based  
34 outreach programs, partnerships with nonprofit community-based organizations, and a multi-

1 lingual, multi-media campaign designed to ensure an accurate and complete count of Rhode  
2 Island's population.

3 The Committee shall collaborate and coordinate with the United States Bureau of the  
4 Census and any other complete count committees established in the State of Rhode Island in  
5 identifying and carrying out the state's outreach strategy.

6 The Rhode Island Complete Count Committee outreach strategy shall be coordinated  
7 through the Office of the Governor which shall provide administrative support to the committee  
8 and coordinate with all state agencies and constitutional officers, as well as units of local  
9 government, to identify effective methods of outreach to Rhode Islanders and to provide  
10 resources to ensure the outreach program is successful and that all Rhode Islanders are counted.

11 To assist in carrying out its duties, the committee may create and appoint subcommittees  
12 as it deems appropriate and shall solicit participation from relevant experts and practitioners  
13 involved in census issues.

14 Vacancies in said Committee shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

15 The membership of said Committee shall receive no compensation for their services.

16 All departments and agencies of the state and local government shall furnish such advice  
17 and information, documentary and otherwise, to said committee and its agents as is deemed  
18 necessary or desirable by the committee to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

19 The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide  
20 suitable quarters for said committee; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Committee shall submit an interim report to the General Assembly  
22 on or before January 15, 2019, containing its recommended outreach strategy to encourage full  
23 participation and to avoid an undercount in the 2020 Census; thereafter, the Committee shall  
24 submit its final report to the General Assembly not later than June 30, 2019, specifying its  
25 recommended outreach strategy for implementation for the 2020 Census, and said Committee  
26 shall expire on December 31, 2020.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO BE KNOWN AS THE "RHODE  
ISLAND COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE"

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1           This resolution would create a thirty-one (31) member special legislative commission to  
2 be known as "The Rhode Island Complete Count Committee" whose purpose it would be to  
3 develop, recommend, and assist in the administration of a census outreach strategy, and who  
4 would make an interim report to the General Assembly by January 15, 2019, and its final report  
5 by June 30, 2019, and said commission would expire on December 31, 2020.

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