

2018 -- S 3002

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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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

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 this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
16 hereby respectfully requests the Governor of the State of Rhode Island to create a "Rhode Island  
17 Complete Count Committee"; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the membership of said committee should include thirty-one (31)

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

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

33         RESOLVED, That the Committee would develop, recommend, and assist in the  
34 administration of a census outreach strategy to encourage full participation in the 2020 federal

1 decennial census of population. The census outreach strategy would include, but not be limited to,  
2 state agency initiatives to encourage participation in the 2020 Census, the establishment and  
3 support of school-based outreach programs, partnerships with nonprofit community-based  
4 organizations, and a multi-lingual, multi-media campaign designed to ensure an accurate and  
5 complete count of Rhode Island's population; and be it further

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

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

17         RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby requests that the Committee submit an interim  
18 report to the General Assembly on or before January 15, 2019, containing its recommended  
19 outreach strategy to encourage full participation and to avoid an undercount in the 2020 Census;  
20 thereafter, the Committee shall submit its final report to the General Assembly not later than June  
21 30, 2019, specifying its recommended outreach strategy for implementation for the 2020 Census,  
22 and said Committee shall expire on December 31, 2020; and be it further

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

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