



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

SB1600

Introduced 2/15/2019, by Sen. Elgie R. Sims, Jr.

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the 2020 Census Grant Program Act. Creates the 2020 Census Grant Program for the purpose of issuing matching grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations to support the accurate counting of the population of the State and its local jurisdictions, and the collection of basic demographic and housing information of the population of this State for the 2020 Census. Creates the 2020 Census Grant Program Panel and provides for its membership. Provides administrative support for the Grant Panel. Provides for the awarding of funds under the Grant Program. Requires notice to be given to units of local government and nonprofit organizations concerning the Grant Program. Provides that for fiscal year 2020, the Governor shall include in the annual State budget for the 2020 Census Grant Program an appropriation of \$33,000,000. Provides legislative findings. Defines terms. Repeals the Act on January 1, 2022. Effective immediately.

LRB101 09752 RJF 54853 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

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

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

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

12 (2) the federal decennial census is important because
13 census figures affect congressional representation, State
14 redistricting, federal formula grant allocations, State
15 funding to local governments, local programs, and planning
16 activities for the next 10 years;

17 (3) the federal decennial census not only counts
18 population, but also: (i) establishes representation
19 decisions for federal, State, and local governments; (ii)
20 is the basis upon which federal funding is allocated for
21 programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and the National
22 School Lunch Program; and (iii) guides business decisions
23 regarding labor pools and investment choices;

1 (4) Congress has underfunded the U.S. Commerce
2 Department's budget to conduct the 2020 Census, causing the
3 Census Bureau to cancel certain preparations that would
4 test the Census Bureau's new digital tools;

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

8 (6) the Census Bureau's reliance on the Internet is
9 worrisome because 21% of rural households do not currently
10 have Internet access at home, putting rural residents at
11 risk of being undercounted;

12 (7) 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 (8) 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 (9) 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 (10) 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 (11) because federal decennial census data are used in
9 political, business, and social welfare contexts, the
10 accuracy of the count is critical;

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

15 (13) in fiscal year 2015, the 50 states and the
16 District of Columbia received \$589,700,000,000 from 16
17 large federal assistance programs that allocate funds on
18 the basis of federal decennial census-derived statistics;

19 (14) there are census tracts in jurisdictions
20 throughout the State where achieving an accurate count of
21 the population is challenging, including the counties of
22 Cook, DeKalb, Pulaski, Will DuPage, Kane, Peoria,
23 Alexander, Jackson, Coles, Champaign, St. Claire,
24 McDonough, Madison, Winnebago, and Lake;

25 (15) the U.S. Government Accountability Office added
26 the 2020 Census to the High Risk list because of concerns

1 about funding and effective operations, increasing
2 concerns about an undercount of the population; and

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

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

9 "2020 Census" means the decennial census conducted by the
10 United States Census Bureau in the year 2020 to determine the
11 number of people living in the United States for purposes of
12 apportionment of representatives in the House of
13 Representatives.

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

15 Section 15. 2020 Census Grant Program.

16 (a) There is created the 2020 Census Grant Program for the
17 purpose of issuing matching grants to units of local government
18 and nonprofit organizations to support the accurate counting of
19 the population of the State and its local jurisdictions, and
20 the collection of basic demographic and housing information of
21 the population of this State for the 2020 Census.

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

24 (i) a chair appointed jointly by the President of the

1 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

2 (ii) two members appointed by the Governor; and

3 (iii) two members appointed jointly by the President of
4 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

5 (c) The Secretary of State shall provide staff and
6 administrative support for the Grant Panel. A member of the
7 Grant Panel shall not receive compensation for service as a
8 member of the Grant Panel, but is entitled to reimbursement for
9 necessary travel expenses incurred by the member.

10 (d) On or before July 1, 2019, a unit of local government
11 or nonprofit organization may apply to the Grant Panel for
12 matching funds to support the accurate counting of the
13 population of its jurisdiction or the State and the collection
14 of basic demographic and housing information of the population
15 of the State for the 2020 Census.

16 (e) On or before August 1, 2019, the Grant Panel shall
17 award matching funds, in an amount determined by the Grant
18 Panel, to units of local government and nonprofit organizations
19 for approved applications.

20 (f) The Grant Panel shall notify units of local government
21 of the 2020 Census Grant Program. Units of local government
22 receiving notice from the Grant Panel under this subsection (f)
23 shall notify nonprofit organizations within the jurisdiction
24 of the unit of local government of the 2020 Census Grant
25 Program.

26 (g) For fiscal year 2020, the Governor shall include in the

1 annual State budget for the 2020 Census Grant Program an
2 appropriation of \$33,000,000.

3 Section 20. Repeal. This Act is repealed on January 1,
4 2022.

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
6 becoming law.