



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) a chair appointed jointly by the President of the  
10 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

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

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

14           (c) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
15 shall provide staff and administrative support for the Grant  
16 Panel. A member of the Grant Panel shall not receive  
17 compensation for service as a member of the Grant Panel, but is  
18 entitled to reimbursement for necessary travel expenses  
19 incurred by the member.

20           (d) On or before July 1, 2019, a unit of local government  
21 or nonprofit organization may apply to the Grant Panel for  
22 funds to support the accurate counting of the population of its  
23 jurisdiction or the State and the collection of basic  
24 demographic and housing information of the population of the  
25 State for the 2020 Census.

26           (e) On or before August 1, 2019, the Grant Panel shall

1 award funds, in an amount determined by the Grant Panel, to  
2 units of local government and nonprofit organizations for  
3 approved applications.

4 (f) The Grant Panel shall notify units of local government  
5 of the 2020 Census Grant Program. Units of local government  
6 receiving notice from the Grant Panel under this subsection (f)  
7 shall notify nonprofit organizations within the jurisdiction  
8 of the unit of local government of the 2020 Census Grant  
9 Program.

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

13 Section 20. Program application.

14 (a) Applicants for these grants shall use the grant  
15 application format prepared and made available by the Grant  
16 Panel for this purpose. The applications will be available on  
17 the website of the Department of Commerce and Economic  
18 Opportunity. Public agencies and private sector entities shall  
19 be eligible to apply for these grants. Each applicant shall  
20 describe itself, whether it is a public agency or private  
21 sector entity. Each private sector entity shall describe  
22 itself, including its legal status (corporation, joint  
23 venture, partnership, or not-for-profit) and its mission. All  
24 private sector entities must be authorized to do business in  
25 the State of Illinois or, if a not-for-profit entity,

1 authorized to conduct affairs in Illinois. Applicants shall  
2 designate that they are applying for a grant to encourage  
3 census participation in hard to count communities and of hard  
4 to count persons, and shall designate the amount of grant funds  
5 being requested. Each application shall include a detailed,  
6 narrative statement describing the proposed use of the grant  
7 funds. Each applicant also shall provide:

8 (1) project director name, with contact information;

9 (2) description of ability to administer the Grant;

10 (3) project title;

11 (4) project description;

12 (5) target audience and need;

13 (6) project schedule;

14 (7) methods for evaluating outcome; and

15 (8) proposed budget, details, and explanation of  
16 expenses.

17 (b) Grant applicants must demonstrate in their grant  
18 applications that they have satisfactorily met all  
19 requirements set forth in this Section, and they possess the  
20 administrative capacity to perform the program, fiscal and  
21 reporting functions stipulated in this Section.

22 (c) The Grant Panel may deny a grant application if the  
23 requirements in this Section are not met, or are inadequately  
24 met. The Grant Panel shall not discriminate on the basis of  
25 race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin,  
26 disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military

1 status in the awarding of grants.

2 (d) Grant applications not submitted in the required format  
3 by the deadline date set forth in subsection (d) of Section 15,  
4 or not completed, shall not be considered for funding by the  
5 Grant Panel.

6 (e) This shall be a competitive grant application process.  
7 A grant review committee shall review all grant applications  
8 and make recommendations to the Grant Panel regarding grant  
9 awards. The following requirements shall apply to the grant  
10 review committee:

11 (1) The grant review committee shall consist of  
12 personnel of the Department of Commerce and Economic  
13 Opportunity, designated members of the Complete Count  
14 Commission, and, at the discretion of the Grant Panel,  
15 additional qualified reviewers.

16 (2) Any additional reviewers shall be selected based on  
17 their academic qualifications and their vocational and  
18 volunteer experience related to the subject matter of the  
19 grant.

20 (3) No person shall serve on a grant review committee  
21 if that person is an applicant for the grant, is employed  
22 by an applicant for the grant, has an ownership interest in  
23 or receives income from an applicant for the grant, or is  
24 related more closely than the fifth degree of consanguinity  
25 (second cousins) to an owner or employee of an applicant  
26 for the grant.



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

4           (A) Abstract. Does the project overview  
5 appropriately communicate the proposed project? (25  
6 points)

7           (B) Administrative capacity. Does the applicant  
8 have adequate experience and qualifications to  
9 accomplish the proposed project? Is the applicant a  
10 known and trusted voice in the community to be served?  
11 (100 points)

12           (C) Project description. Has the applicant  
13 provided a comprehensive description of the project,  
14 including details about methods, activities, and  
15 services to be provided in light of the legislative  
16 findings of Section 5? If the applicant is partnering  
17 with any other entity, is that partnership fully  
18 explained, and are those entities known and trusted  
19 voices in the communities to be served? (200 points)

20           (D) Target audience and need. Has the applicant  
21 identified the intended audience and its need for  
22 services proposed? With regard to grant applications  
23 to encourage participation in the census, and noting  
24 that based on the latest census estimates  
25 approximately 16% of Illinois' current population  
26 lives in hard-to-count neighborhoods, has the

1 applicant set forth a plan for identifying and working  
2 in these hard-to-count neighborhoods? (500 points)

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

6 (F) Evaluation. Is the methodology and strategy  
7 that the applicant will use to evaluate the success of  
8 the project reasonable? (25 points)

9 (G) Budget. Is the proposed budget reasonable,  
10 necessary, appropriate, and adequate to perform the  
11 proposed services? (100 points)

12 For purposes of this grant application and review  
13 process:

14 "Community provider" means an entity that has the  
15 capability to provide services or goods to designated  
16 communities as necessary to complete the requirements of  
17 the grant.

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

20 (f) The total sum appropriated for a particular purpose may  
21 be awarded to a single applicant, or that sum may be divided  
22 into awards to multiple applicants. If grants are awarded to  
23 multiple applicants, each selected application shall be funded  
24 according to the amount of funding available based on the  
25 comparative demonstrated need, experience executing the  
26 proposed program or plan, and projected outcomes.

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

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

9 Section 25. Grant reporting requirements.

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

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

15 (2) a final financial report showing all expenditures  
16 of grant funds and the return of any non-expended grant  
17 funds; and

18 (3) a final narrative report evaluating the degree to  
19 which the grantee achieved the goals and objectives of the  
20 project.

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

23 (c) Grants awarded under this Section are subject to the  
24 Grant Accountability and Transparency Act, and the Grant Panel  
25 shall not consider grant applications submitted by entities

1 included in the Illinois Debarred and Suspended List maintained  
2 by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

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

16 (e) Grants made under this Section are subject to the  
17 provisions of the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act. Actions  
18 brought under that Act may include, but are not limited to, a  
19 grant recipient's failure to spend funds in accordance with the  
20 application or approved amendment or the failure to comply with  
21 reporting procedures stipulated in this Section. If a provision  
22 of this Section conflicts with a provision of the Illinois  
23 Grant Funds Recovery Act, then the provision of the Illinois  
24 Grant Funds Recovery Act controls.

25 (f) Obligations of the Grant Panel to fund this Grant  
26 Program will cease immediately without penalty or further

1 payment being required if the funds for the grants are not  
2 available to the Grant Panel.

3 Section 30. Repeal. This Act is repealed on January 1,  
4 2022."; and

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

7 on page 6, line 26, by replacing "Section 99." with "Section  
8 999.".