

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2444

To provide for an interim census of Americans abroad, the data from which shall be used in deciding whether to count such individuals in future decennial censuses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 1, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. FILNER, Mr. OLVER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. SHOWS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. BROWN of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BENTSEN, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To provide for an interim census of Americans abroad, the data from which shall be used in deciding whether to count such individuals in future decennial censuses.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Census of Americans
5 Abroad Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) between 3,000,000 and 6,000,000 Ameri-
2 cans live and work overseas while continuing to vote
3 and pay taxes in the United States;

4 (2) Americans living abroad help increase ex-
5 ports of American goods because they traditionally
6 buy American, sell American, and create business
7 opportunities for American companies and workers,
8 thereby strengthening the United States economy,
9 creating jobs in the United States, and extending
10 United States influence around the globe;

11 (3) Americans abroad play a key role in advanc-
12 ing this Nation’s interests by serving as economic,
13 political, and cultural “ambassadors” of the United
14 States; and

15 (4) the major business, civic, and community
16 organizations representing Americans and companies
17 of the United States abroad support the counting of
18 all Americans abroad by the Bureau of the Census,
19 and are prepared to assist the Bureau of the Census
20 in this task.

21 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
22 gress that—

23 (1) the Bureau of the Census should undertake
24 a census of all Americans residing abroad in a spe-

1 cial census, and the necessary funding should be ap-
2 propriated for this purpose; and

3 (2) the Bureau of the Census should, after com-
4 pleting a special census of all Americans residing
5 abroad, review the means by which Americans resid-
6 ing abroad could be included in the 2010 decennial
7 census.

8 **SEC. 3. COUNTING OF AMERICANS ABROAD.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce
10 shall—

11 (1) using any authorities available to the Sec-
12 retary under section 182 or any other provision of
13 title 13, United States Code, take a census of all
14 Americans residing abroad as of April 1, 2003;

15 (2) submit the final tabulations under this sub-
16 section to the President and the Congress within 9
17 months after the date specified in paragraph (1),
18 broken down into all appropriate categories,
19 including—

20 (A) Americans abroad affiliated with the
21 Federal Government and their dependents; and

22 (B) Americans abroad not affiliated with
23 the Federal Government and their dependents;
24 and

1 (3) not later than June 30, 2005, submit to the
2 President and the Congress a report containing—

3 (A) the Secretary’s findings as to the feasi-
4 bility of counting Americans abroad in future
5 decennial censuses of population; and

6 (B) any recommendations which the Sec-
7 retary may have regarding the counting of
8 Americans abroad, including—

9 (i) whether and how Americans
10 abroad could be counted in the 2010 de-
11 cennial census;

12 (ii) for what purposes the information
13 could and should be used; and

14 (iii) whether Americans abroad should
15 be included in the 2010 decennial census
16 for purposes of the apportionment of Rep-
17 resentatives in Congress among the several
18 States and, if so, how that should be done.

19 (b) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than June 30,
20 2002, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the com-
21 mittees of Congress having legislative jurisdiction over the
22 census a report which shall include—

23 (1) a summary of how the plans and prepara-
24 tions for carrying out this section are proceeding;

1 (2) a brief description or outline of how the tab-
2 ulations referred to in subsection (a) are to be car-
3 ried out; and

4 (3) information identifying any experts, consult-
5 ants, interest groups, or other persons outside the
6 Bureau of the Census who were consulted under this
7 section.

8 (c) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION; PEN-
9 ALTIES.—The provisions of section 9 and chapter 7 of title
10 13, United States Code, shall apply to the census carried
11 out under this Act.

12 (d) LIMITED USE OF DATA.—The data obtained
13 from the census taken under this Act may not be used
14 for any purpose not specifically provided for under this
15 section.

16 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
18 necessary to carry out this Act.

○