

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4154

To amend title 13, United States Code, to provide that the penalty for refusing or neglecting to answer decennial census questions shall apply only to the extent necessary to allow the Government to obtain the information needed for its enumeration of the population, as required by the Constitution of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2000

Mr. HUNTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To amend title 13, United States Code, to provide that the penalty for refusing or neglecting to answer decennial census questions shall apply only to the extent necessary to allow the Government to obtain the information needed for its enumeration of the population, as required by the Constitution of the United States.

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 “Common Sense Census
5 Act of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITED APPLICABILITY OF PENALTY PROVISION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 225 of title 13, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(e)(1) The penalty under section 221(a) shall not
6 apply, for refusing or neglecting to answer one or more
7 of the questions on a schedule used in connection with the
8 2000 decennial census, except to the extent necessary to
9 allow the Government to obtain the information needed
10 for its enumeration of the population, as required by the
11 Constitution of the United States.

12 “(2) For purposes of this subsection—

13 “(A) only questions included on the 2000 de-
14 cennial census short form (apart from those relating
15 to race or ethnicity) shall be considered necessary to
16 permit such an enumeration; and

17 “(B) the term ‘decennial census’ means a de-
18 cennial census of population under section 141.”.

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
20 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to all schedules
21 used in connection with the 2000 decennial census, includ-
22 ing those returned before the date of enactment of this
23 Act.

○