

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1715

To provide for an interim census of Americans residing abroad, and to require that such individuals be included in the 2010 decennial census.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 8, 1999

Mr. ROCKEFELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To provide for an interim census of Americans residing abroad, and to require that such individuals be included in the 2010 decennial census.

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—

8 (1) an estimated 3,000,000 to 6,000,000 Amer-
9 icans live and work overseas while continuing to vote
10 and pay taxes in the United States;

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

8 (3) Americans residing abroad play a key role
9 in advancing this Nation’s interests by serving as
10 economic, political, and cultural “ambassadors” of
11 the United States; and

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

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

20 (1) the Bureau of the Census should undertake
21 a census of all Americans residing abroad in a spe-
22 cial census, and that the necessary funding should
23 be appropriated for this purpose;

24 (2) the Bureau of the Census should, after com-
25 pleting that special census, review the means by

1 which Americans residing abroad may be included in
2 the 2010 decennial census; and

3 (3) the Bureau of the Census should take ap-
4 propriate measures to provide for the inclusion of
5 Americans residing abroad in the 2010 decennial
6 census and decennial censuses thereafter.

7 **SEC. 3. COUNTING OF AMERICANS RESIDING ABROAD.**

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

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

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

20 (A) Americans residing abroad affiliated
21 with the Federal Government, and their de-
22 pendents; and

23 (B) Americans residing abroad not affili-
24 ated with the Federal Government, and their
25 dependents;

1 (3) not later than June 30, 2005, submit to the
2 President and Congress a report containing any rec-
3 ommendations the Secretary may have with respect
4 to the inclusion of Americans residing abroad in fu-
5 ture decennial censuses, including—

6 (A) counting methodologies;

7 (B) the purposes for which any informa-
8 tion could or should be used; and

9 (C) whether Americans residing abroad
10 can be included in the 2010 decennial census
11 for purposes of the apportionment of Rep-
12 resentatives in Congress among the several
13 States and, if so, how that should be done; and
14 (4) take appropriate measures—

15 (A) to provide for the inclusion of Ameri-
16 cans residing abroad in the 2010 decennial cen-
17 sus and decennial censuses thereafter; and

18 (B) to make use of the information ob-
19 tained from such censuses for such purposes as,
20 and to the maximum extent that, the Secretary
21 considers feasible and appropriate.

22 (b) INTERIM REPORT ON SPECIAL CENSUS.—Not
23 later than June 30, 2002, the Secretary of Commerce
24 shall submit to the committees of Congress having legisla-

1 tive jurisdiction over the census a report which shall
2 include—

3 (1) a summary of how the plans and prepara-
4 tions for carrying out the special census are pro-
5 ceeding;

6 (2) a brief description or outline of how the tab-
7 ulations in the special census are to be carried out;
8 and

9 (3) information identifying any experts, consult-
10 ants, interest groups, or other persons outside the
11 Bureau of the Census who were consulted in connec-
12 tion with the special census.

13 (c) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION; PEN-
14 ALTIES.—The provisions of section 9 and chapter 7 of title
15 13, United States Code, shall apply with respect to the
16 special census.

17 (d) LIMITED USE OF DATA.—The data obtained
18 from the special census may not be used for any purpose
19 not specifically provided for under this section.

20 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
22 necessary to carry out this Act.

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