

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2255

To make participation in the American Community Survey voluntary, except with respect to certain basic questions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. ROHR-ABACHER, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To make participation in the American Community Survey voluntary, except with respect to certain basic questions, and for other purposes.

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. PARTICIPATION IN AMERICAN COMMUNITY**
4 **SURVEY.**

5 (a) OPTIONAL QUESTIONS.—Section 193 of title 13,
6 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
7 following: “The Secretary shall include, in the instructions
8 for completing any survey authorized under this section,

1 a statement indicating that answering any question other
2 than questions that solicit the information described in
3 section 221(c)(2)(A) is optional.”.

4 (b) REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE.—Section 221 of title
5 13, United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “Whoever,
7 being over eighteen years of age,” and inserting
8 “Except as provided in subsection (c), any person
9 older than 18 years of age who”; and

10 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
11 lows:

12 “(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision under
13 this title—

14 “(A) no person may be compelled to disclose in-
15 formation relative to the person’s religious beliefs or
16 to membership in a religious body; and

17 “(B) except as provided in paragraph (2), no
18 person may be fined or otherwise compelled to an-
19 swer questions in connection with the survey, con-
20 ducted by the Secretary of Commerce, which is com-
21 monly referred to as the ‘American Community Sur-
22 vey’.

23 “(2) Paragraph (1)(B)—

24 “(A) shall not apply to any question that elic-
25 its—

1 “(i) the name of the respondent;
2 “(ii) contact information for the respond-
3 ent;
4 “(iii) the date of the response; or
5 “(iv) the number of people living or stay-
6 ing at the same address; and
7 “(B) does not waive any penalty imposed for
8 conduct described in subsection (b).”.

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