

Chapter 18

(Senate Bill 855)

AN ACT concerning

2020 Census Grant Program – Establishment and Funding

FOR the purpose of establishing the 2020 Census Grant Program for a certain purpose; establishing the 2020 Census Grant Program Panel; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Grant Panel; prohibiting a member of the Grant Panel from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; authorizing a local government or nonprofit organization to apply to the Grant Panel for certain matching funds on or before a certain date; requiring the Grant Panel to award certain matching funds on or before a certain date; requiring the Grant Panel to notify local governments of the Program; expressing the intent of the General Assembly that local governments provide certain notice to certain nonprofit organizations; requiring the Governor to include a certain appropriation in the State operating budget for a certain entity in a certain fiscal year; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the 2020 Census Grant Program.

Preamble

WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2015, the 50 states and the District of Columbia received \$589,700,000,000 from 16 large federal assistance programs that allocate funds on the basis of decennial census–derived statistics; and

WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2015, Maryland benefited from \$10,900,000,000 in grants and direct payments from federal health care, education, transportation, nutrition, child care, housing, and energy assistance programs that allocated funds on the basis of decennial census–derived statistics; and

WHEREAS, Undercounting the population of the State and local jurisdictions could jeopardize funding from federal assistance programs that allocate funds on the basis of decennial census–derived statistics; and

WHEREAS, There are census tracts in jurisdictions throughout the State where achieving an accurate count of the population is challenging, including Allegany County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Caroline County, Cecil County, Harford County, Howard County, Frederick County, Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, St. Mary’s County, Somerset County, Washington County, Wicomico County, and Baltimore City; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Government Accountability Office added the 2020 Census to the High Risk list because of concerns about funding and effective operations, increasing concerns about an undercount of the population; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That:

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “2020 Census” means the decennial census conducted by the federal U.S. Census Bureau in the year 2020 to determine the number of people living in the United States for purposes of apportionment of representatives in the House of Representatives.

(3) “Grant Panel” means the 2020 Census Grant Program Panel.

(b) There is a 2020 Census Grant Program for the purpose of issuing matching grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations to support the accurate counting of the population of the State and its local jurisdictions, and the collection of basic demographic and housing information of the population of the State for the 2020 Census.

(c) (1) There is a 2020 Census Grant Program Panel.

(2) The Grant Panel consists of the following members:

(i) a chair appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates;

(ii) two members appointed by the Governor; and

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

(3) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Grant Panel.

(4) A member of the Grant Panel:

(i) may not receive compensation as a member of the Grant Panel;
but

(ii) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(d) (1) On or before March 1, 2019, a local government or nonprofit organization may apply to the Grant Panel for matching funds to support the accurate counting of the population of its jurisdiction or the State and the collection of basic demographic and housing information of the population of the State for the 2020 Census.

(2) On or before April 1, 2019, the Grant Panel shall award matching funds, in an amount determined by the Grant Panel, to local governments and nonprofit organizations for approved applications.

(e) (1) The Grant Panel shall notify local governments of the 2020 Census Grant Program.

(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly that local governments notify nonprofit organizations within the jurisdiction of the local government of the 2020 Census Grant Program.

~~(e)~~ (f) For fiscal year 2020, the Governor shall include in the annual State operating budget for the 2020 Census Grant Program a general fund appropriation of \$5,000,000.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~1 year~~ 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, ~~2019~~ 2020, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(b) of the Maryland Constitution, April 5, 2018.