

# SENATE BILL 855

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By: **Senator Guzzone**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **2020 Census Grant Program – Establishment and Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the 2020 Census Grant Program for a certain purpose;  
4 establishing the 2020 Census Grant Program Panel; providing for the composition,  
5 chair, and staffing of the Grant Panel; prohibiting a member of the Grant Panel from  
6 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain  
7 expenses; authorizing a local government or nonprofit organization to apply to the  
8 Grant Panel for certain matching funds on or before a certain date; requiring the  
9 Grant Panel to award certain matching funds on or before a certain date; requiring  
10 the Governor to include a certain appropriation in the State operating budget for a  
11 certain entity in a certain fiscal year; providing for the termination of this Act; and  
12 generally relating to the 2020 Census Grant Program.

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2015, the 50 states and the District of Columbia received  
15 \$589,700,000,000 from 16 large federal assistance programs that allocate funds on the basis  
16 of decennial census–derived statistics; and

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

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

24 WHEREAS, There are census tracts in jurisdictions throughout the State where  
25 achieving an accurate count of the population is challenging, including Allegany County,  
26 Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Caroline County, Cecil County, Harford County,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Howard County, Frederick County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, St.  
2 Mary's County, Somerset County, Washington County, Wicomico County, and Baltimore  
3 City; and

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

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

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

10 (2) "2020 Census" means the decennial census conducted by the federal  
11 U.S. Census Bureau in the year 2020 to determine the number of people living in the United  
12 States for purposes of apportionment of representatives in the House of Representatives.

13 (3) "Grant Panel" means the 2020 Census Grant Program Panel.

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

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

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

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

22 (ii) two members appointed by the Governor; and

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

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

27 (4) A member of the Grant Panel:

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

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

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

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

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

10           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
11 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June  
12 30, 2019, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be  
13 abrogated and of no further force and effect.