

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

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By: **Delegates Wilkins, Acevero, Bagnall, D. Barnes, Boyce, Cain, Crosby, Crutchfield, Cullison, Dumais, Ebersole, Feldmark, W. Fisher, Guyton, Harrison, Haynes, Ivey, Kaiser, Kipke, Korman, Krimm, J. Lewis, Lierman, Lopez, Luedtke, McIntosh, Palakovich Carr, Proctor, Queen, Reznik, Shetty, Solomon, Valderrama, Valentino-Smith, Washington, C. Watson, R. Watson, and K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Participation by Maryland Residents in the 2020 Census**

3 FOR the purpose of stating that all practical efforts should be made to ensure that, for the
4 2020 Census, every Maryland resident is counted once and in a certain place on a
5 certain day; urging all Maryland residents to work with certain persons to ensure
6 that every Maryland resident is counted; strongly encouraging all Maryland
7 residents to participate fully in the 2020 Census; and generally relating to the 2020
8 Census.

9 WHEREAS, The U.S. Constitution places the census at the foundation of democracy
10 by calling for a count of the nation's residents every 10 years; and

11 WHEREAS, The census results will determine the number of seats Maryland will
12 have in the U.S. House of Representatives and guide the distribution of more than \$16
13 billion in federal funding to the State; and

14 WHEREAS, The results of the census will aid in the making of decisions regarding
15 job creation, housing, emergency preparedness, and the construction of schools, roads, and
16 hospitals; and

17 WHEREAS, Maryland's overall response rate of 76% in the 2010 Census required
18 costly follow-up to nonrespondents and a likely loss in resources for certain communities;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The census has historically undercounted certain communities, which
21 has disproportionately affected people of color, low-income individuals, non-English
22 speakers, and young children; and



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1 WHEREAS, The 2020 Census will be the first census in history to be conducted
2 mostly online, presenting additional challenges to the 14% of Maryland residents lacking
3 reliable Internet access; and

4 WHEREAS, Several states, including Maryland, successfully blocked the inclusion
5 of an untested and unnecessary citizenship question on the 2020 Census form; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That all practical
8 efforts should be made to ensure that, for the 2020 Census, every Maryland resident is
9 counted once and in the correct place according to where they live on Census Day, April 1,
10 2020; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges all Maryland residents to work with
12 nonprofit organizations, community leaders, and trusted voices to ensure that every
13 Maryland resident is counted; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly strongly encourages all Maryland
15 residents to participate fully in the 2020 Census; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
17 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the
18 Honorable William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
19 Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates.