

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Joint Resolution 6 (Delegate Wilkins, *et al.*)
Rules and Executive Nominations

Participation by Maryland Residents in the 2020 Census

This joint resolution affirms that all practical efforts should be made to ensure that, for the 2020 census, every Maryland resident is counted once and in the correct place according to where they live on Census Day, April 1, 2020. Moreover, the joint resolution strongly encourages all Maryland residents to participate fully in the 2020 census.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The joint resolution does not directly affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The joint resolution does not directly affect local finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: According to the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), enumerating the number of people living in the country was considered by the founding fathers to be so important that it was included in Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution.

A decennial census is required to be taken every 10 years, with the next census occurring in 2020. April 1 of the year of the census, under federal law, is known as the “decennial census date.” Tabulation of the population must be completed within nine months of the census date. Census data is used for various purposes, including (1) apportionment of seats allocated to the states in the U.S. House of Representatives; (2) redrawing of district boundaries at various levels of government (congressional, state legislative, local districts);

(3) distribution of an estimated \$675 billion in federal funding annually; and (4) serving as a basis for government policy, commercial, and economic decision making.

The State has already begun various activities to ensure a successful and accurate census. Chapter 18 of 2018 established the 2020 Census Grant Program and the 2020 Census Grant Program Panel to award up to \$5 million in matching grants to local governments and nonprofits to encourage 2020 census participation. In addition, Governor Hogan signed [Executive Order 01.01.2019.03](#) in February 2019 to establish the Maryland Complete Count Committee to assist the State in achieving a full and accurate count in the 2020 decennial census.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management; Maryland Department of Planning; Department of Legislative Services

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