

2019 -- S 0743

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND ADVOCATING SUPPORT FOR THE "CENSUS DAY OF ACTION"
IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Ruggerio, Lombardi, Felag, and Picard

Date Introduced: April 02, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, April 1, 2019, marks one year until the 2020 Census; and

2 WHEREAS, The 2020 Census will be critically important to the future of Rhode Island
3 and even a minor undercount would have dire implications that would last for at least a decade;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Federal funds are disbursed based on population which is determined by the
6 Census, and include funding for healthcare, infrastructure, housing, rural communities, and local
7 municipalities; and

8 WHEREAS, One third of Rhode Island's state budget is comprised of those federal
9 dollars; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition, if initial estimates on Rhode Island's population figures hold
11 true, the state is projected to lose one of its two United States House seats, which will critically
12 impede Rhode Island's ability to ensure fair political representation in Washington; and

13 WHEREAS, One of the concerns to ensuring a fair and accurate count in the 2020
14 Census for Rhode Island is that there are significant numbers of groups considered "hard to
15 count," including immigrants who may or may not have legal status, non-fluent English speakers,
16 low-income and homeless people, racial and ethnic minorities, and young people; and

17 WHEREAS, It is vital that all avenues of access to accomplishing a comprehensive and
18 inclusive Census be pursued by businesses, media outlets, community organizations, and state
19 and local agencies; now, therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
2 hereby recognizes and supports the "Census Day of Action" and the outreach efforts of local
3 governments and community based organizations, particularly those with connections to
4 traditionally hard to count and undercounted communities; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
6 transmit duly certified copies, of this resolution to the Honorable Gina Raimondo, Governor of
7 the State of Rhode Island, and the Honorable Nellie M. Gorbea, Secretary of State.

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