

SENATE, No. 2730

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 14, 2018

Sponsored by:
Senator RONALD L. RICE
District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “New Jersey Complete Count Commission.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the “New Jersey Complete Count
2 Commission.”

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “New Jersey
8 Complete Count Commission Act.”

9

10 2. a. There is created in, but not of, the Department of State,
11 the “New Jersey Complete Count Commission.”

12 b. The commission shall consist of 21 members as follows:

13 (1) the President of the Senate, or a designee;

14 (2) the Speaker of the General Assembly, or a designee;

15 (3) the Minority Leader of the Senate, or a designee;

16 (4) the Minority Leader of the General Assembly, or a designee;

17 (5) the Governor, or a designee;

18 (6) the Secretary of State, or a designee;

19 (7) the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce
20 Development, or a designee;

21 (8) three individuals representing municipalities in this State,
22 reflecting the geographic diversity of the State, appointed by the
23 Secretary of State;

24 (9) four individuals representing counties in this State, reflecting
25 the geographic diversity of the State, appointed by the Governor;

26 (10) one representative each from four different organizations
27 representing the interests of minorities in the State, appointed by the
28 Secretary of State; and

29 (11) one representative each from three different organizations
30 representing the interests of business in the State, including one
31 organization representing minority business interests, appointed by
32 the Governor.

33

34 3. All appointments to the commission shall be made within 30
35 days after the date of enactment of this act, P.L. , c. (pending
36 before the Legislature as this bill). Vacancies in the membership of
37 the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
38 appointments were made. Members of the commission shall serve
39 without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for
40 their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
41 their duties, within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise
42 made available to the commission for its purposes.

43

44 4. The commission shall organize within 30 days after the
45 appointment of its members. The Secretary of State shall serve as
46 chairperson of the commission. The commission shall select a vice
47 chairperson from among its members. The commission may also
48 appoint a secretary, a director, and an assistant director, who need

S2730 RICE

1 not be a member of the commission. The director and assistant
2 director may be compensated from funds made available to the
3 commission for this purpose. The commission shall meet at the call
4 of the chairperson, or upon the request of any 10 members of the
5 commission, who shall constitute a quorum.

6
7 5. The Department of State shall provide the staff services
8 necessary to support the functions of the commission. The
9 commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself
10 of the services of the employees of any other State department,
11 board, bureau, commission or agency, as it may require and as may
12 be available to it for its purposes.

13
14 6. It shall be the duty of the commission to develop,
15 recommend, and assist in the administration of a census outreach
16 strategy to encourage full participation in the 2020 federal
17 decennial census of population required by Section 141 of Title 13
18 of the United States Code. The census outreach strategy shall
19 include, but not be limited to, State agency initiatives to encourage
20 participation in the 2020 Census, the establishment and support of
21 school-based outreach programs, partnerships with non-profit
22 community-based organizations, and a multi-lingual, multi-media
23 campaign designed to ensure an accurate and complete count of
24 New Jersey's population. To assist in carrying out its duties, the
25 commission may create and appoint subcommittees as it deems
26 appropriate and shall solicit participation from relevant experts and
27 practitioners involved in census issues.

28
29 7. The outreach strategy of the New Jersey Complete Count
30 Commission shall be coordinated through the Office of the
31 Secretary of State, which shall provide administrative support to the
32 commission and coordinate with all State agencies and
33 constitutional officers, as well as units of local government, to
34 identify effective methods of outreach to New Jersey's population
35 and to provide resources to ensure the outreach program is
36 successful and that all New Jersey residents are counted. All State
37 agencies shall inform the Office of the Secretary of State of their
38 designated census coordinator and cooperate with the commission
39 and provide support to the commission. For the purposes of this
40 section, "State agencies" means any executive agency or
41 department directly responsible to the Governor. Other entities of
42 government, including other constitutional officers, the offices of
43 the legislative and judicial branches, and units of local government
44 shall cooperate and provide all reasonable assistance to the
45 commission.

46
47 8. The commission shall submit an interim report to the
48 Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,

1 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), within six months of its organizational
2 meeting, containing its recommended outreach strategy to
3 encourage full participation and to avoid an undercount in the 2020
4 Census. Thereafter, the commission shall submit its final report to
5 the Governor and to the Legislature no later than June 30, 2019,
6 specifying its recommended outreach strategy for implementation
7 for the 2020 Census. The commission shall expire on January 1,
8 2020.

9
10 9. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire on
11 January 1, 2020.

12
13
14 STATEMENT

15
16 This bill establishes the “New Jersey Complete Count
17 Commission,” consisting of 21 members as follows: the President
18 of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Senate
19 Minority Leader, the General Assembly Minority Leader, the
20 Governor, the Secretary of State, the Commissioner of the
21 Department of Labor and Workforce Development, or their
22 respective designees; three individuals representing municipalities
23 in this State, appointed by the Secretary of State; four individuals
24 representing counties in this State, appointed by the Governor; one
25 representative each from four different organizations representing
26 the interests of minorities in the State, appointed by the Secretary of
27 State; and one representative each from three different
28 organizations representing the interests of business in the State,
29 including one organization representing minority business interests,
30 appointed by the Governor. The individuals representing counties
31 and municipalities would be selected from different geographic
32 regions of the State.

33 The duty of the commission is to develop, recommend, and assist
34 in the administration of a census outreach strategy to encourage full
35 participation in the 2020 federal decennial census of population.
36 The census outreach strategy is required to include, but would not
37 be limited to, State agency initiatives to encourage participation in
38 the 2020 Census, the establishment and support of school-based
39 outreach programs, partnerships with non-profit community-based
40 organizations, and a multi-lingual, multi-media campaign designed
41 to ensure an accurate and complete count of New Jersey’s
42 population. To assist in carrying out its duties, the commission may
43 create and appoint subcommittees as it deems appropriate and shall
44 solicit participation from relevant experts and practitioners involved
45 in census issues.

46 The bill requires the outreach strategy to be coordinated through
47 the Office of the Secretary of State, which would provide
48 administrative support to the commission and coordinate with all

S2730 RICE

1 State agencies, constitutional officers, and units of local
2 government, to identify effective methods of outreach to New
3 Jersey's population and to provide resources to ensure the outreach
4 program is successful and that all New Jersey residents are counted.
5 Under the bill, all State agencies are required to inform the Office
6 of the Secretary of State of their designated census coordinator and
7 cooperate with the commission and provide support to the
8 commission. Other entities of government, including other
9 constitutional officers, the offices of the legislative and judicial
10 branches, and units of local government, are directed to cooperate
11 and provide all reasonable assistance to the commission.

12 The commission is required to submit an interim report to the
13 Governor and the Legislature within six months of its
14 organizational meeting, containing its recommended outreach
15 strategy to encourage full participation and to avoid an undercount
16 in the 2020 Census. Thereafter, the commission would submit its
17 final report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than June
18 30, 2019, specifying its recommended outreach strategy for
19 implementation for the 2020 Census.

20 The commission would expire on January 1, 2020.