

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 55**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 25, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Senator Ruiz, Assemblywomen Murphy, Jasey, Assemblyman Danielsen,
Assemblywomen McKnight, Mosquera, Assemblymen Schaer, Johnson
and Chiaravalloti**

SYNOPSIS

Opposes inclusion of citizenship question in 2020 census; urges New Jersey Congressional Delegation to reject any measure directing Census Bureau to include question.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/13/2018)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** opposing the inclusion of a
2 citizenship question in the 2020 federal decennial census survey
3 and urging the New Jersey Congressional Delegation to reject
4 any measure directing the Census Bureau to include that
5 question.

6
7 **WHEREAS**, The United States Department of Justice has asked the
8 United States Census Bureau to include a question about citizenship
9 status in the 2020 decennial census questionnaire that is sent to all
10 households; and

11 **WHEREAS**, According to experts, including four former Census
12 Bureau directors, a citizenship question in the decennial census
13 would have a detrimental effect on the accuracy of the decennial
14 census count, as privacy concerns and fear of deportation would
15 prevent a significant number of households from completing their
16 census form; and

17 **WHEREAS**, An undercount of the total population in municipalities,
18 counties, states, and the nation as a whole would yield inaccurate
19 data for research purposes and, among other impacts, will affect the
20 equitable allocation of nearly \$700 billion per year in federal funds,
21 the number of electoral votes in each state, the reapportionment of
22 legislative districts, and the apportionment of seats in the United
23 States House of Representatives; and

24 **WHEREAS**, The Fourteenth Amendment of the United States
25 Constitution requires that members of the House of Representatives
26 “shall be apportioned among the several states according to their
27 respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each
28 state”; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Given the Trump Administration’s policies toward
30 deportation, immigration, and naturalization, the inclusion of a
31 citizenship question in the decennial census survey would prevent
32 the achievement of the full count of the population required by the
33 Constitution, as many households would refuse to complete the
34 census form; and

35 **WHEREAS**, We must protect the ability of the Census Bureau to collect
36 an accurate and full census count, and including a citizenship
37 question in the decennial census would be counterproductive to that
38 goal and yield inaccurate data for the next decade; now, therefore,

39

40 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
41 *General Assembly concurring):*

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43 1. This Legislature opposes the inclusion of a citizenship
44 question in the 2020 decennial census survey, and urges each
45 member of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation to reject any
46 measure directing the United States Census Bureau to include that
47 question.

1 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
2 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of
3 the General Assembly to the Attorney General of the United States,
4 the Director of the United States Census Bureau, and each member
5 of Congress elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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10 This resolution opposes the inclusion of a citizenship question in
11 the 2020 census survey and urges the New Jersey Congressional
12 Delegation to reject any measure directing the Census Bureau to
13 include such a question.

14 The United States Department of Justice has asked the Census
15 Bureau to include a question about citizenship status in the 2020
16 decennial census form. According to experts, including four former
17 Census Bureau directors, a citizenship question in the decennial
18 census would have a detrimental effect on the accuracy of the
19 decennial census count, as privacy concerns and fear of deportation
20 would prevent many households from completing their census form.
21 An undercount of the total population in municipalities, counties,
22 states, and the nation would yield inaccurate data for research
23 purposes and, among other impacts, will affect the equitable
24 allocation of nearly \$700 billion per year in federal funds, the
25 number of electoral votes in each state, the reapportionment of
26 legislative districts, and the apportionment of seats in the United
27 States House of Representatives. The Fourteenth Amendment of the
28 U.S. Constitution requires that members of the House of
29 Representatives “shall be apportioned among the several states
30 according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number
31 of persons in each state.”

32 Given the Trump Administration’s deportation, immigration, and
33 naturalization policies, a citizenship question in the decennial
34 census survey would prevent the achievement of the full count of
35 the population required by the Constitution, as many households
36 would refuse to complete the census form. Including a citizenship
37 question in the decennial census would be counterproductive to the
38 goal of achieving a full count of the population and would yield
39 inaccurate data for the next decade.