

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 13

Introduced by Assembly Member Fuentes

January 22, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 13—Relative to decennial census.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 13, as introduced, Fuentes. Decennial census.

This measure would recognize April 10, 2010 as the United States Census Day and strongly urge the Governor to act immediately to commence planning for outreach efforts for the 2010 decennial census so as to achieve a complete count of all Californians.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, The United States Constitution requires an
2 enumeration of the population every 10 years, which is known as
3 the United States decennial census; and
4 WHEREAS, The United States decennial census is important
5 because it determines congressional representation, state
6 redistricting, federal formula grant allocations, state funding to
7 local governments, and local programs and planning activities for
8 the next 10 years; and
9 WHEREAS, California, with the eighth largest economy in the
10 world, a population of more than thirty-seven million (37,000,000),
11 a territory of 163,696 square miles, and significant geographic,
12 racial, and ethnic diversity, has experienced a historical undercount
13 in prior censuses; and

1 WHEREAS, A complete and accurate count of all residents in
2 the 2010 decennial census is vital to ensure fair political
3 representation and distribution of funding in California; and

4 WHEREAS, Now, more than ever, in the face of a record state
5 budget deficit, a complete count of all Californians in the decennial
6 census is critical; and

7 WHEREAS, The next decennial census of the population will
8 be conducted on April 1, 2010, and the United States Census
9 Bureau and the Demographics Unit of the California Department
10 of Finance already have begun planning to ensure its success; and

11 WHEREAS, The California Complete Count Committee, created
12 in 1999, directed an extensive outreach campaign with a budget
13 of \$24.7 million to encourage full participation in the 2000
14 decennial census by all Californians, especially historically
15 undercounted populations; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite limited time for outreach, the campaign
17 still was successful in reaching various segments of the population
18 and contributed to a mail-back response rate of 70 percent for
19 California, which exceeded the national response rate of 67 percent;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Despite these outreach efforts in connection with
22 the 2000 census, 522,796 Californians were not counted, which
23 resulted in a loss of \$1.5 billion in federal funding for the state;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Residents are more likely to respond to the census
26 questionnaire if they are informed about the census and better
27 understand the census process; and

28 WHEREAS, Future outreach efforts depend on strong
29 partnerships with state, local, and tribal governments,
30 community-based organizations, faith-based groups, schools,
31 businesses, the media, and others; and

32 WHEREAS, A sufficient amount of time is necessary to develop
33 and implement education and outreach strategies to complement
34 the United States Census Bureau's regional efforts; and

35 WHEREAS, The Select Committee on the Census held its first
36 hearing on April 4, 2008, and through testimony, determined that
37 California must now begin to develop a work plan and determine
38 if resources need to be budgeted in 2009 and 2010 to promote the
39 census; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes April 1, 2010
3 as the United States Census Day; and be it further

4 *Resolved,* That the Legislature strongly urges the Governor to
5 act immediately to commence planning for outreach efforts for
6 the 2010 decennial census so as to achieve a complete count of all
7 Californians; and be it further

8 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
9 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.