
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1721 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, MARCELL, JAMES, FLICK, STAATS AND KAUFFMAN,
SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Pennsylvania Census
3 Commission; and imposing duties on the Joint State Government
4 Commission.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 71 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

9 CHAPTER 43

10 PENNSYLVANIA CENSUS COMMISSION

11 Sec.

12 4301. Definitions.

13 4302. Pennsylvania Census Commission.

14 4303. Report on census activities.

15 § 4301. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
17 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
18 context clearly indicates otherwise:

19 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Census Commission established

1 under section 4302 (relating to Pennsylvania Census Commission).
2 § 4302. Pennsylvania Census Commission.

3 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Census Commission is
4 established within the Joint State Government Commission.

5 (b) Membership.--The commission shall be comprised of the
6 following members:

7 (1) The Governor or a designee.

8 (2) The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee.

9 (3) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development
10 or a designee.

11 (4) The Secretary of Corrections or a designee.

12 (5) The Secretary of Human Services or a designee.

13 (6) The Secretary of Labor and Industry or a designee.

14 (7) The President pro tempore of the Senate or a
15 designee.

16 (8) The Minority Leader of the Senate or a designee.

17 (9) The Speaker of the House of Representatives or a
18 designee.

19 (10) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
20 or a designee.

21 (11) Eleven other members appointed by the Governor and
22 confirmed by the Senate which shall include members who:

23 (i) Represent a rural community.

24 (ii) Represent an urban community.

25 (iii) Represent a suburban community.

26 (iv) Represent the following regions of this
27 Commonwealth:

28 (A) The northeastern region.

29 (B) The northwestern region.

30 (C) The southcentral region.

1 (D) The southeastern region.

2 (E) The southwestern region.

3 (c) Duties.--The commission shall have the following duties:

4 (1) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly on
5 census activities within the Commonwealth.

6 (2) Identify barriers that might impede the progress of
7 future Federal decennial censuses in this Commonwealth.

8 (3) Promote and advertise future Federal decennial
9 censuses.

10 (4) Respond to residents' questions and concerns about a
11 census.

12 (5) Develop partnerships with regional and local
13 Complete Count Committees to increase participation in the
14 census.

15 (6) Distribute and share census information with
16 traditionally hard-to-count areas and populations.

17 (7) Seek to ensure the highest census participation rate
18 possible.

19 (8) Gather information and produce reports under section
20 4303 (relating to report on census activities).

21 (d) Quorum.--A majority of appointed members shall
22 constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

23 (e) Chairperson and vice chairperson.--The members shall
24 select a chairperson and vice chairperson from among the
25 membership of the board.

26 (f) Transparency and ethics.--The commission shall be
27 subject to the following laws:

28 (1) The act of July 19, 1957 (P.L.1017, No.451), known
29 as the State Adverse Interest Act.

30 (2) The act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as

1 the Right-to-Know Law.

2 (3) 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings).

3 (g) Information gathering.--The commission shall use data
4 from the Pennsylvania State Data Center and may conduct hearings
5 and otherwise gather additional relevant information and
6 analysis that the commission considers appropriate and
7 necessary.

8 (h) Reimbursement.--Members of the commission shall be
9 reimbursed for reasonable expenses.

10 § 4303. Report on census activities.

11 (a) Annual report.--The commission shall gather and issue an
12 annual report on the commission's findings by December 1 of each
13 year.

14 (b) Additional reports.--In addition to the commission's
15 annual report, the commission shall gather and issue the
16 following reports:

17 (1) Previous Federal decennial census activities and
18 results by January 1 or 48 months prior to the start of a
19 future Federal decennial census year.

20 (2) A preliminary plan for a future Federal decennial
21 census by January 1 or 36 months prior to the start of a
22 future Federal decennial census year.

23 (3) A final plan for a future Federal decennial census
24 by July 1 or 36 months prior to the start of a future Federal
25 decennial census year.

26 (4) An implementation plan for a future Federal
27 decennial census by January 1 or 24 months prior to the start
28 of a future Federal decennial census year.

29 (5) Funding recommendation plan for a future Federal
30 decennial census by July 1 or 24 months prior to the start of

1 a future Federal decennial census year.

2 (c) Submission of reports.--The reports under this section
3 shall be reported to:

4 (1) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
5 Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

6 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
7 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

8 (3) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
9 State Government Committee of the Senate.

10 (4) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
11 State Government Committee of the House of Representatives.

12 (d) Reports made publicly available.--A copy of all reports
13 under this section shall be made publicly available by being
14 posted on the Joint State Government Commission's publicly
15 accessible Internet website.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.