

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 929

To amend title 13, United States Code, to require that the questionnaire used in taking the 2000 decennial census be made available in certain languages besides English.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 1999

Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. SOUDER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To amend title 13, United States Code, to require that the questionnaire used in taking the 2000 decennial census be made available in certain languages besides English.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “2000 Census Language
5 Barrier Removal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 1 of title
3 13, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 **“§ 17. Requirement relating to census questionnaires**

6 “(a) The Secretary shall design and carry out a pro-
7 gram under which—

8 “(1) the short form used in taking the 2000 de-
9 cennial census shall, in addition to being printed in
10 English, be prepared in each of the alternative ver-
11 sions described in subsection (b);

12 “(2) upon request, a household shall, instead of
13 receiving the printed English version of that short
14 form, be sent the alternative version (described in
15 subsection (b)) specified in its request; and

16 “(3) those alternative versions shall otherwise
17 be made available to the public in such manner as
18 will, in the judgment of the Secretary, most effec-
19 tively enhance response rates in the 2000 decennial
20 census.

21 “(b) The versions described in this subsection are Ar-
22 abic, Armenian, Bengali, Cambodian, Chinese, Creole,
23 Czech, Dutch, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Hindi,
24 Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Latvian,
25 Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian,
26 Russian, Samoan, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, Tagalog,

1 Thai, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Yiddish, and such other lan-
2 guages as the Secretary considers appropriate, as well as
3 braille (for at least English).

4 “(c) For purposes of this Act—

5 “(1) the term ‘decennial census’ means a decen-
6 nial census of population conducted under section
7 141(a); and

8 “(2) the term ‘short form’ refers to the short
9 form of the questionnaire used in taking a decennial
10 census.”.

11 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

12 (1) Section 5 of title 13, United States Code, is amended
13 by striking “title.” and inserting “title, subject to section
14 17.”.

15 (2) The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter
16 1 of title 13, United States Code, is amended by adding
17 after the item relating to section 16 the following:

“17. Requirement relating to census questionnaires.”.

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