

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6215

To amend title 13, United States Code, to prohibit certain deceptive practices in relation to a census, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2020

Ms. ESHOO (for herself and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To amend title 13, United States Code, to prohibit certain deceptive practices in relation to a census, and for other purposes.

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 “Honest Census Com-
5 munications Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON DECEPTIVE PRACTICES RELAT-**
2 **ING TO CENSUS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 13, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “SUBCHAPTER IV—DECEPTIVE PRACTICES

7 “§ 251. **Prohibition on deceptive practices**

8 “(a) No person, whether acting under color of law
9 or otherwise, shall by any means, including by means of
10 written, electronic or digital (including through a website,
11 app, online forum, social media platform, streaming serv-
12 ice, or any other means of communications using the inter-
13 net or a similar communications network), or telephonic
14 communications (including any phone call, text message,
15 or any other communications sent, received, or trans-
16 mitted using a wireless or wireline phone or a cellular or
17 other phone network), communicate or cause to be com-
18 municated information described in subsection (b), or
19 produce information described in such subsection with the
20 intent that such information be communicated, if such
21 person—

22 “(1) knows such information to be materially
23 false; and

24 “(2) has the intent to impede or prevent an-
25 other person from participating in any census under

1 this title, including the decennial census of popu-
2 lation.

3 “(b) Information described in this subsection is any
4 information regarding—

5 “(1) the time, place, or manner of holding any
6 such census; or

7 “(2) the qualifications for, or restrictions on,
8 participation in any such census.

9 “(c) Any individual who violates subsection (a) shall
10 be fined an amount equal to the maximum penalty pro-
11 vided under subsection (d), imprisoned for not more than
12 5 years, or both.

13 “(d) A civil penalty of not more than \$11,181 may
14 be assessed against any individual who violates subsection
15 (a).”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
17 for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing:

“SUBCHAPTER IV—DECEPTIVE PRACTICES

“251. Prohibition on deceptive practices.”.

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