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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 1644

02/25/2019 Authored by Long; Carlson, L.; Nelson; McDonald; Lee and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to state government; requiring multiunit residential facilities to provide
1.3 access to employees of the United States Census; establishing a Census 2020
1.4 Mobilization Partnership program; appropriating money to support certain outreach
1.5 initiatives to encourage participation in the 2020 federal census.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. ACCESS TO MULTIUNIT FACILITIES BY UNITED STATES CENSUS
1.8 EMPLOYEES.

1.9 Subdivision 1. Access required. It is unlawful for a person, either directly or indirectly,
1.10 to deny access to an apartment house, dormitory, nursing home, manufactured home park,
1.11 other multiple unit facility used as a residence, or an area in which two or more single-family
1.12 dwellings are located on private roadways, to an employee of the United States Census who
1.13 displays a current, valid census credential and who is engaged in official census business.
1.14 An employee granted access under this section must be permitted to leave census materials
1.15 for residents at their doors, except that the manager of a nursing home may direct that the
1.16 materials be left at a central location within the facility. The materials must be left in an
1.17 orderly manner.

1.18 Subd. 2. Limitations. This section does not prohibit:

1.19 (1) denial of admittance into a particular apartment, room, manufactured home, or
1.20 personal residential unit;

1.21 (2) in the case of a nursing home or a registered housing with services establishment
1.22 providing assisted living services meeting the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section
1.23 144G.03, subdivision 2, denial of permission to visit certain persons for valid health reasons;

- 2.1 (3) limiting visits to a reasonable number of census employees or reasonable hours;  
2.2 (4) requiring a prior appointment to gain access to the facility; or  
2.3 (5) denial of admittance to or expulsion of an individual employee from a multiple unit  
2.4 dwelling for good cause.

2.5 Subd. 3. **Expiration.** This section is effective January 1, 2020, and expires July 1, 2020.

2.6 Sec. 2. **MINNESOTA CENSUS 2020 MOBILIZATION.**

2.7 Subdivision 1. **Duty of commissioner of administration; grants and contracts.** (a)  
2.8 The commissioner of administration must, in collaboration with the Minnesota Census 2020  
2.9 Mobilization Partnership, facilitate the administration of a census mobilization program.  
2.10 The purpose of the program must be to increase the participation of Minnesotans in the  
2.11 2020 United States Census by implementing the outreach and mobilization activities  
2.12 described in subdivisions 2 to 5.

2.13 (b) At least 45 percent of any appropriation provided to the commissioner for the program  
2.14 required by this section must be allocated for grants to local governments and nonpartisan,  
2.15 nonprofit community organizations engaged in census mobilization work. Any appropriations  
2.16 not allocated for grants may be used by the commissioner to further implement the outreach  
2.17 and mobilization activities described in subdivisions 2 to 5 by contract or by directing the  
2.18 work of the office of the state demographer.

2.19 (c) The commissioner of administration may waive application of all or any portion of  
2.20 Minnesota Statutes, sections 16B.978 to 16B.991, in awarding grants, Minnesota Statutes,  
2.21 chapter 16C, in entering contracts, and Minnesota Statutes, chapter 16E, in purchasing  
2.22 technology systems and software under this section to facilitate the timely distribution of  
2.23 funds and to maximize the impact of the outreach and mobilization activities.  
2.24 Notwithstanding the waivers authorized by this paragraph, the commissioner may not waive  
2.25 application of policies or procedures designed to ensure diversity and the inclusion of  
2.26 traditionally underrepresented groups among grant recipients and contract vendors.

2.27 Subd. 2. **Engaging hard to reach households.** The census mobilization partnership  
2.28 program must support:

2.29 (1) initiatives to increase census response rates among households outside of the  
2.30 11-county metropolitan area who receive mail through a post office box; and

3.1 (2) initiatives to increase awareness among census employees, multiunit apartment  
 3.2 managers and owners, and renters on the laws governing access to multiunit apartment  
 3.3 buildings by census employees.

3.4 Subd. 3. **Adapting to the electronic census.** The census mobilization partnership program  
 3.5 must support:

3.6 (1) opportunities for Minnesotans to submit their census response electronically through  
 3.7 online portals provided in common gathering spaces within a community; and

3.8 (2) commit-to-the-census initiatives that organize Minnesotans to commit to participate  
 3.9 in the census and include electronic reminders to facilitate their participation.

3.10 Subd. 4. **Reaching historically undercounted communities.** The census mobilization  
 3.11 partnership program must support:

3.12 (1) job sourcing initiatives that encourage a sufficient pool of qualified candidates to  
 3.13 apply for positions with the Census Bureau, and efforts to ensure that the pool of candidates  
 3.14 reflects the diversity of Minnesota's communities, including those communities historically  
 3.15 undercounted in census reports; and

3.16 (2) initiatives that engage historically undercounted communities, and reduce census  
 3.17 participation gaps in these communities compared to Minnesota's historically high overall  
 3.18 census response rate.

3.19 Subd. 5. **Shared services.** The census mobilization partnership program must support  
 3.20 efficiency in census mobilization efforts by providing shared services to support local and  
 3.21 community census outreach, including development of multilingual educational and  
 3.22 promotional materials and tools to reach respondents through a variety of communication  
 3.23 platforms and services.

3.24 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION; MINNESOTA CENSUS MOBILIZATION PROGRAM.**

3.25 \$..... in fiscal year 2020 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of  
 3.26 administration for the census mobilization program described in section 2. This appropriation  
 3.27 is available until June 30, 2021.