

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S3/13/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 403

By: Senators C. Tucker, *Crowell*

By: Representative Beaty Jr.

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE 2030 ARKANSAS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE; TO PLAN AND CONDUCT STATEWIDE EDUCATIONAL AND OUTREACH INITIATIVES TO INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION IN THE 2030 FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE THE 2030 ARKANSAS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE; AND TO PLAN AND CONDUCT STATEWIDE EDUCATIONAL AND OUTREACH INITIATIVES TO INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION IN THE 2030 FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. Legislative intent.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The United States Bureau of the Census is required by the United States Constitution to conduct a federal decennial census;

(2) The federal decennial census provides a historic opportunity to help shape the foundation of our society and plays an active role in American democracy;

(3) An accurate federal decennial census is essential for the redistricting of state legislative and congressional district boundaries;

(4) Important federal and state appropriation decisions are made based in part on federal decennial census data;



(5) Accurate federal decennial census information is critical to planning for the growth, development, and social needs of Arkansas;

(6) The United States Bureau of the Census announced in 2022 that Arkansas had the highest undercount rate of the 2020 Federal Decennial Census at five and four hundredths percent (5.04%);

(7) Arkansas was one (1) of six (6) states considered by the United States Bureau of the Census to have a statistically significant undercount during the 2020 Federal Decennial Census;

(8) Over three hundred (300) federal programs rely on federal decennial census data to allocate funds;

(9) The George Washington Institute of Public Policy estimates that fifty-five (55) large federal spending programs allocated nearly ten billion dollars (\$10,000,000,000) to Arkansas in the fiscal year 2016 based on data derived from the 2010 Federal Decennial Census;

(10) Arkansas is estimated to lose five billion two hundred fifty million dollars (\$5,250,000,000) in federal funds by the end of the 2030 because of the 2020 Federal Decennial Census undercount rate;

(11) The 2020 Federal Decennial Census undercount rate of children in Arkansas between the ages of zero (0) and four (4) was five and fourteen hundredths percent (5.14%); and

(12) An undercount of young children results in fewer federal funds allocated to Arkansas programs important to young children such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. 2030 Arkansas Complete Count Committee – Creation – Members – Proceedings – Duties.

(a) There is created the 2030 Arkansas Complete Count Committee.

(b) The committee shall consist of the following thirty (30) members:

(1) One (1) staff member of the office of the Governor to be appointed by the Governor;

(2) Two (2) members appointed from the state at large by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(3) Two (2) members appointed from the state at large by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(4) The Secretary of the Department of Commerce or his or her

designee;

(5) The Secretary of the Department of Labor and Licensing or his or her designee;

(6) The Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration or his or her designee;

(7) The Secretary of the Department of Human Services or his or her designee;

(8) The Secretary of the Department of Health or his or her designee;

(9) The Secretary of the Department of Education or his or her designee;

(10) The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs or his or her designee;

(11) One (1) member who is a representative from the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce to be appointed by the Governor;

(12) Three (3) members who are representatives of city and county governments to be appointed by the Governor;

(13) Two (2) members who are representatives of local community action agencies to be appointed by the Governor;

(14) One (1) member who is a representative of an area agency on aging to be appointed by the Governor;

(15) Two (2) members who are representatives of the faith community to be appointed by the Governor;

(16) One (1) faculty member from a state-funded institution of higher education with a doctorate degree in demography, population studies, statistics, social sciences, or a related field to be appointed by the Governor;

(17) One (1) member from the state at large to be appointed by the Governor; and

(18) Seven (7) members appointed by the Governor from nonprofit organizations representing or serving historically undercounted populations in the federal decennial census such as young children.

(c) Vacancies on the committee due to death, resignation, or other causes shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as is provided in this section for initial appointments.

(d) Members of the committee shall serve without pay.

(e)(1) The Governor shall designate one (1) member of the committee as chair.

(2) The chair shall call the first meeting of the committee.

(3) The first meeting shall occur within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this act.

(4) The committee may conduct a meeting through electronic means, including without limitation by:

(A) Telephone;

(B) Video conference; or

(C) Video broadcast.

(5)(A) The committee shall meet at least one (1) time every other month.

(B) Additional meetings may be held upon the call of the chair.

(f) The committee shall establish rules of procedure for meetings.

(g)(1) Fifteen (15) members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(2) The affirmative vote of a majority of members present is required to adopt a motion or committee action.

(h) The committee shall advise and assist state agencies and private nonprofit organizations to obtain the most accurate and complete population count for the 2030 Federal Decennial Census.

(i) The committee shall:

(1) Work with the office of the Governor and the United States Bureau of the Census to form strategies and techniques to increase the state response rate for the 2030 Federal Decennial Census;

(2) Work with state agencies to plan and implement statewide educational and outreach initiatives for the federal decennial census;

(3) Analyze the potential causes of the state undercount in the 2020 Federal Decennial Census to plan for the 2030 Federal Decennial Census;

(4) Request input from nonprofit entities and business leaders on how the state can partner with the private sector for the purpose of federal decennial census outreach;

(5) Collect information from state agencies concerning:

(A) An opportunity to integrate federal decennial census outreach into current state agency activities; and

(B) The estimated funding necessary to add federal decennial census outreach to current state agency activities; and

(6) Recommend appropriations for 2030 Federal Decennial Census outreach.

(j) The committee shall provide a written report of findings and recommendations concerning 2030 Federal Decennial Census outreach to the Governor and the Legislative Council on or before September 1, 2026.

(k) The committee shall continue to meet until September 1, 2030, to:

(1) Assess the progress of federal decennial census outreach;
and

(2) Develop outreach recommendations for the 2040 Federal Decennial Census.

(1) The committee shall provide a written report of findings and recommendations concerning 2040 Federal Decennial Census outreach to the Governor and the Legislative Council on or before September 1, 2030.

(m) The committee shall expire on September 30, 2030.

/s/C. Tucker