



The 2020 Census Deadline Extensions Act

Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney

The 2020 Census was the largest and most digitally advanced Census in our nation's history. However, after extensive operational delays due to the coronavirus pandemic, career experts at the Census Bureau concluded that it could not meet the traditional statutory deadlines for data delivery without sacrificing accuracy and completeness. As a result, the Census Bureau requested that Congress extend the statutory deadlines for the delivery of apportionment and redistricting, so that more time could be devoted to data collection and processing. While the House swiftly passed these extensions as part of the HEROES Act in May 2020, the Senate failed to act, and the extended deadlines were never implemented.

Since then, the Bureau has faced additional challenges with processing Census data including the identification of at least 15 anomalies which, while routine, require additional time for the experts to fix. In January, the Census Bureau announced that it had revised its internal delivery timeline and would be able to provide accurate apportionment data to the President by April 30, 2021, and redistricting data to every state by September 30, 2021.

This bill legislates the Census Bureau's timelines while achieving three key goals; it reestablishes Congress' authority over how the Decennial Census is conducted, provides the time necessary for career experts to properly process the data, and ensures that data delivered on behalf of the American people is complete and accurate.

Census data is used to determine the distribution of over \$1.5 trillion in annual federal funding, representation at every level of government, as well as critical economic data that helps businesses of all sizes grow and prosper. As our nation continues to combat and recover from the economic impact of coronavirus, and begins to look ahead to the next decade of public investment, it is essential that we have accurate and complete data about our nation to drive our decision making. Passing the bipartisan 2020 Census Deadline Extensions Act is a critical step toward ensuring that our national statistics are sound and reliable.