

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HM 439 Federal 2010 Census in Creole
SPONSOR(S): Roberson and others
TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SM 1454

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Committee on Ethics & Elections</u>	<u>8 Y, 0 N</u>	<u>Suarez</u>	<u>Mitchell</u>
2) <u>Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council</u>	<u></u>	<u>Suarez</u>	<u>Tinker</u>
3) <u>Rules & Calendar Council</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
4) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
5) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A memorial expresses the opinion of the Legislature to the Federal Government. HM 439 is a memorial that urges Congress to adopt legislation that would require the U.S. Census Bureau to make census forms for the 2010 Decennial Census available in the Creole language. HM 439 further encourages Congress to adopt legislation that will require the U.S. Census Bureau to allow census respondents to indicate whether they are a Haitian national or of Haitian descent.

The memorial does not specify a particular bill or legislative proposal it intends to support.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

This memorial does not appear to implicate any of the house principles.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

During the 2000 Decennial Census, the U.S. Census Bureau (“Bureau”) provided households receiving the census form in the mail the option of requesting the questionnaire in Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, or Korean. Additionally, people who believed that they were not included on a form or did not receive a form could use the “Be Counted” questionnaire that was available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean.

The Bureau provided Language Assistance Guides in 49 languages. Each language assistance guide was provided in long form and short form to assist respondents in completing the census questionnaire.¹

Albanian	German	Samoan
Amharic	Greek	Serbian (Serbo-Croatian)
Arabic	Hebrew	Slovak
Armenian	Hindi	Somali
Bengali	Hmong	Spanish
Burmese	Hungarian	Swahili
Cambodian	Ilocano	Tagalog
Chamorro	Italian	Thai
Chinese	Japanese	Tibetan
Creole	Korean	Tigrinya
Croatian (Serbo-Croatian)	Kurdish	Tongan
Czech	Lao	Ukrainian
Dari	Polish	Urdu
Dinka	Portuguese	Vietnamese
Dutch	Romani	Yiddish
Farsi	Romanian	
French	Russian	

Since the 2000 Decennial Survey, the U.S. Census Bureau has enacted changes in the manner it collects demographic and socioeconomic data. The 2010 Decennial Survey will only ask for name, sex, age, date of birth, race, ethnicity, relationship and housing tenure. The new short-form survey is anticipated to take only minutes to complete.

More detailed socioeconomic data (previously collected through the decennial census’ “long-form” questionnaire), including ancestry and national origin, is now collected through the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a large, sample-size survey that is conducted annually. The survey is accomplished through mail, telephone, and personal visits. The Bureau presently provides for the ACS surveys to be published in English and Spanish.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau

The Bureau reports that preparation for the 2010 Decennial Survey is still at an early stage. The Bureau expects to distribute census questionnaires in Chinese, Spanish, Korean, Russian and Vietnamese. The Bureau anticipates that it will publish Language Assistance Guides in over 50 languages for the 2010 Decennial Survey.²

Effect of Proposed Changes

The memorial expresses the opinion of the Legislature to the Federal Government.³ HM 439 adopts the position that, given the considerable size of Florida's Haitian population, it is in the interest of equity and obtaining the most accurate information possible from the next census, that forms for the 2010 Decennial Survey should be made more accessible to the Haitian population of Florida.

HM 439 urges Congress to adopt legislation that would require the U.S. Census Bureau to make census forms for the 2010 Decennial Census available in the Creole language. HM 439 further encourages Congress to adopt legislation that will require the U.S. Census Bureau to allow census respondents to indicate whether they are a Haitian national or of Haitian descent.

The memorial does not specify a particular bill or legislative proposal it intends to support.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Not Applicable.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

There appears to be no appreciable economic impact to the private sector.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

² Telephone conference with Jennifer Marks, U.S. Census Bureau. March 7, 2008

³ A memorial is a special form of concurrent resolution addressed to an executive agency or another legislative body, usually Congress, that expresses the sentiment of the Florida Legislature on a matter outside its legislative jurisdiction.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable because the memorial does not appear to: require counties or cities to spend funds or take action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with cities or counties.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

No additional rule making authority is required to implement the intent of this memorial.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

D. STATEMENT OF THE SPONSOR

None provided.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE CHANGES