

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 237

BY REPRESENTATIVES OWEN, BILLINGS, BRAUD, FARNUM, HORTON,
LARVADAIN, NEWELL, SCHAMERHORN, THOMAS, WALTERS, AND
WYBLE

CENSUS: Memorializes Congress to enact a provision in the National Defense
Authorization Act directing the Department of Defense to provide accurate on-base
population counts for the decennial census

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress to enact a provision in the National Defense
3 Authorization Act directing the Department of Defense to furnish official personnel
4 counts directly to the United States Census Bureau for military installations located
5 in the contiguous United States.

6 WHEREAS, Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States requires an
7 enumeration of the population of the United States every ten years; and

8 WHEREAS, accurate census counts are essential for fair apportionment of
9 congressional seats, proper allocation of federal funding, and accurate representation of
10 communities across the state; and

11 WHEREAS, Louisiana is home to three major military installations: Fort Polk,
12 Barksdale Air Force Base, and Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, that
13 together house tens of thousands of active-duty military personnel, civilian employees, and
14 dependent family members; and

15 WHEREAS, historical census counts conducted by door-to-door enumeration on
16 these secure military installations have resulted in significant undercounts; and

17 WHEREAS, the 2020 Census reported seven thousand nine hundred fifty personnel,
18 spouses, dependents, and contractors residing on Fort Polk when the actual population
19 exceeded thirty-eight thousand; and

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Defense and each installation's garrison personnel
2 offices maintain precise, daily counts of all soldiers, airmen, sailors, marines, civilian
3 employees, and dependent family members physically residing on base; and

4 WHEREAS, requiring the Department of Defense to provide these verified numbers
5 directly to the United States Census Bureau would eliminate the need for door-to-door
6 census workers on military installations, improve accuracy, create administrative
7 efficiencies, reduce costs, and allow census resources to be redirected to more complex
8 enumeration challenges elsewhere.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
10 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to include in
11 the National Defense Authorization Act a provision directing the Department of Defense to
12 furnish to the United States Census Bureau the exact number of military personnel, civilian
13 employees, and dependent family members residing on each military installation in the
14 contiguous United States during each decennial census.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
16 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States
17 Senate, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and the Secretary of
18 Defense.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 237 Engrossed

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Owen

Memorializes U.S. Congress to enact provisions in the Nat'l. Defense Authorization Act directing the Dept. of Defense to furnish official personnel counts directly to the U.S. Census Bureau for military installations located in the contiguous U.S.