

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 237

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

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, requiring the Department of Defense to provide these verified numbers directly to the United States Census Bureau would eliminate the need for door-to-door census workers on military installations, improve accuracy, create administrative

efficiencies, reduce costs, and allow census resources to be redirected to more complex enumeration challenges elsewhere.

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

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES