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By:  Blanco H.R. No. 1058

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, April 1, 2020, is National Census Day, which gives our state one year from today to ensure that all Texans are counted and that we receive our fair share of resources and representation; and

WHEREAS, Section 2, Article I, of the U.S. Constitution mandates a periodic enumeration of all people living in the United States, and this census has been carried out every 10 years since 1790; the data collected in the census determines the number of representatives apportioned to each state in the U.S. House of Representatives and by extension the number of electors representing each state in the Electoral College during presidential elections; and

WHEREAS, The data is additionally used to help determine how approximately $675 billion will be distributed each year by the federal government to state, local, and tribal governments; Texas currently receives about $59 billion of those census-guided federal funds annually, and these funds support programs that are crucial to the well-being of Texas families and communities, including Medicaid, highway planning and construction, the National School Lunch Program, special education, and foster care; and

WHEREAS, Texas businesses also rely on census data to make informed decisions when investing resources or expanding into new markets, and this data is especially vital given the rapid growth and changing demographics of the Lone Star State; if businesses do not have accurate and comprehensive data, they cannot make informed decisions, which could directly impact the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, The people of Texas and the United States only get one chance every decade at achieving a full census count, and the data collected will inform important policy decisions for years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize April 1, 2019, as Census Awareness Day in Texas.