

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2255

To make participation in the American Community Survey voluntary, except with respect to certain basic questions, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. ROHR-ABACHER, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## A BILL

To make participation in the American Community Survey voluntary, except with respect to certain basic questions, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION IN AMERICAN COMMUNITY**  
4 **SURVEY.**

5 (a) OPTIONAL QUESTIONS.—Section 193 of title 13,  
6 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
7 following: “The Secretary shall include, in the instructions  
8 for completing any survey authorized under this section,

1 a statement indicating that answering any question other  
2 than questions that solicit the information described in  
3 section 221(c)(2)(A) is optional.”.

4 (b) REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE.—Section 221 of title  
5 13, United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “Whoever,  
7 being over eighteen years of age,” and inserting  
8 “Except as provided in subsection (c), any person  
9 older than 18 years of age who”; and

10 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-  
11 lows:

12 “(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision under  
13 this title—

14 “(A) no person may be compelled to disclose in-  
15 formation relative to the person’s religious beliefs or  
16 to membership in a religious body; and

17 “(B) except as provided in paragraph (2), no  
18 person may be fined or otherwise compelled to an-  
19 swer questions in connection with the survey, con-  
20 ducted by the Secretary of Commerce, which is com-  
21 monly referred to as the ‘American Community Sur-  
22 vey’.

23 “(2) Paragraph (1)(B)—

24 “(A) shall not apply to any question that elic-  
25 its—

1                   “(i) the name of the respondent;  
2                   “(ii) contact information for the respond-  
3                   ent;  
4                   “(iii) the date of the response; or  
5                   “(iv) the number of people living or stay-  
6                   ing at the same address; and  
7                   “(B) does not waive any penalty imposed for  
8                   conduct described in subsection (b).”.

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