

110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5599

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 5, 2008

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and  
Public Works

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## AN ACT

To designate the Federal building located at 4600 Silver Hill Road in Suitland, Maryland, as the “Thomas Jefferson Census Bureau Headquarters Building”.

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

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) Thomas Jefferson, as Secretary of State in  
4 1790, supervised the first modern census in world  
5 history;

6 (2) the 1790 census was the first national cen-  
7 sus in the United States and the first periodic cen-  
8 sus in the modern nation-state era;

9 (3) Jefferson urged President Washington to  
10 veto the first apportionment bill presented by Con-  
11 gress on the grounds that it was unconstitutional,  
12 and Jefferson’s own apportionment formula was  
13 adopted and used until 1840;

14 (4) Jefferson’s mastery of numbers and statis-  
15 tical analysis helped alert the Nation to the impor-  
16 tance of accuracy in the numbers used to describe  
17 the society and pointed to methods that later im-  
18 proved census taking;

19 (5) Jefferson offered population corrections to  
20 the European diplomatic community to more accu-  
21 rately convey the fast-growing United States popu-  
22 lation, which had been undercounted in previous cen-  
23 sus taking;

24 (6) Jefferson believed in the importance of ter-  
25 ritorial expansion and insisted on equal representa-

1 tion for the territories that were to join the Union  
2 as States;

3 (7) Jefferson supervised the first census in  
4 world history that gave to the people more than it  
5 took from them, being designed less to extract taxes  
6 or raise a militia than to apportion political power  
7 to the people of the United States according to their  
8 numbers; and

9 (8) Jefferson's role in establishing a republic  
10 based on principles of representation underscores the  
11 historical significance of the United States census  
12 and the way the Government views and governs  
13 itself today.

14 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION.**

15 The Federal building located at 4600 Silver Hill  
16 Road in Suitland, Maryland, shall be known and des-  
17 ignated as the "Thomas Jefferson Census Bureau Head-  
18 quarters Building".

19 **SEC. 3. REFERENCES.**

20 Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document,  
21 paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal  
22 building referred to in section 2 shall be deemed to be

- 1 a reference to the “Thomas Jefferson Census Bureau
- 2 Headquarters Building”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 4, 2008.

Attest:                   LORRAINE C. MILLER,  
*Clerk.*