

RESUME:

CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORTING THE CENSUS BUREAU'S PROPOSED RULE TO COUNT PRISONERS IN FEDERAL AND REGIONAL CORRECTION FACILITIES AS PRINCE GEORGE RESIDENTS IN THE 2020 CENSUS

The U.S. Census Bureau is proposing a rule to be used for the 2020 census that counts people in federal prisons and local jails on April 1, 2020 as residing in the locality where the facility is located. This rule has been in place for a number of censuses. The federal correctional facility in Prince George houses approximately 2,827 convicted felons and the Riverside Regional Jail houses approximately 1,552 misdemeanants from various localities and state prisoners awaiting transit to state prisons. Localities have until August 1, 2016 to comment on the proposed residency rule. Mr. Robertson has asked the Board to consider adopting a resolution supporting the Census Bureau's rule for counting prisoners as part of Prince George County. Counting prisoners as part of the County is logical because the County is responsible for providing certain emergency responses to both facilities and has certain law enforcement responsibilities at the Jail. In addition there can be situations where a larger total population for the County could make the County eligible for additional federal grants. Certain interest groups such as the ACLU prefer to have prisoners counted at their place of origin. Even if prisoners continue to be counted as residents of Prince George County, under Sec. 24.2-304.1, Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, the Board may exclude the prison and jail populations when drawing new local election districts in 2021 that must comply with "one man-one vote" numerical requirements.