

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Governmental Operations Committee

BILL: SM 1454

INTRODUCER: Senator Wilson

SUBJECT: Federal 2010 Census in Creole

DATE: March 10, 2008 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Rhea	Wilson	GO	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill is a memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to make forms available for the United State Decennial Census of 2010 in Creole for the Haitian population of Florida.

This bill does not amend, create, or repeal the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The United States Decennial Census has been taken every ten years since 1790. The first several censuses were primarily headcounts of the population with very little socioeconomic data collected. In later decades the scope of the Census was broadened to include agriculture, mining, business, governments, religious bodies, housing, transportation, and social statistics. The modern Decennial Census provides detailed demographic data for federal programs as well as for business, agriculture, social services, school districts, and state/local governments.

The last Decennial Census was in 2000. That census shows that there were 419,317 foreign-born persons from Haiti in the United States at that time. Florida was the state with the largest population of foreign-born Haitians, with 182,224. This figure represented 6.8 percent of Florida's total foreign-born population of 2.7 million.

The United States Census Bureau, when conducting the last Decennial Census, published a short-form and a long-form language assistance guide in 49 different languages, one of which was Creole. The bureau did not, however, have a census form in Creole. The census form was in Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill would create a memorial from the Florida Legislature urging the Congress of the United States to make census forms for the United States Decennial Census of 2010 available in Creole to provide optimal accessibility by the Haitian population of Florida to prepare census forms in a manner that will allow a respondent to indicate whether he or she is a Haitian national or of Haitian descent.

The bill also would provide that copies of the memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

There would be additional costs for preparing a census form in Creole, but it appears that those costs would be incurred at the Federal level.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
