



## Delaware House of Representatives House Majority Caucus

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### **BILL ENSURING ACCURATE REDISTRICTING COUNT HEADED TO GOVERNOR**

*Inmates to be counted at permanent residence instead of at correctional facility*

DOVER – Legislation that would ensure that each Delaware municipality’s population is accurately counted and thus ensure its fair share of federal funds has passed the Senate and is on its way to Governor Jack Markell for his signature.

Sponsored by Rep. Helene M. Keeley, House Bill 384 would require that inmates in a Delaware prison at the time of the decennial U.S. Census would be counted in the area they resided immediately prior to incarceration instead of being counted at the address of the correctional facility. Under the bill, the state would not be able to count prisoners who did not live in Delaware before they were incarcerated as part of the population. This would apply in determining the reapportionment and redistricting for the state.

“Most people who are in prison are not there for long periods of time,” said Rep. Keeley, D-Wilmington South. “When they are released, they return to the communities they lived in before they were in prison. They return home and need to utilize various services. But if people aren’t counted properly first, the municipalities will lose out on funds, and those services will be strained because they aren’t receiving an adequate amount of funding.”

HB 384 passed the House unanimously on June 1 and cleared the Senate on Wednesday by a 17-3 vote.

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