
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1506

AN ACT CONCERNING RACIAL AND ETHNIC IMPACT STATEMENTS.

SUMMARY

This bill prescribes a new procedure to set the process for legislators to request a racial and ethnic impact statement (REIS) on certain bills and amendments.

Current law allows the Government Administration and Elections Committee to make recommendations for a provision in the Joint Rules on the procedure for preparing the statements, their content, and the types of bills and amendments for which they should be prepared.

The bill instead requires the legislative Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health to develop the procedures for (1) legislators to make the request and (2) the commission to prepare the REIS. The commission must send a letter with the procedures to the House speaker, Senate president pro tempore, and the House and Senate majority and minority leaders asking for their inclusion in the Joint Rules. The bill's new processes and requirements apply beginning with the 2027 legislative session. (The current joint rules do not include a provision on these statements, and by resetting the date by which they may begin to be requested, the bill precludes the legislature from amending the joint rules to include a process for them that would apply to the 2026 legislative session.)

By law, any legislator may request these statements. For bills favorably reported during the regular session, the request must be made within 10 days after the originating committee's reporting deadline. For amendments, the bill decreases the request window by requiring the requests to be made at least 15 days before the end of session, instead of at least 10 days before as under current law.

The bill (1) allows the commission, regardless of any state law on record and information confidentiality, to ask any public or quasi-public agency for records and information in order to prepare a REIS and (2) requires the agencies to comply within certain deadlines. It also requires any prepared REIS to be posted on the General Assembly's website.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

AGENCY RECORDS

Under the bill, an agency that receives this request must submit the records and information within the next five days. But the bill requires the commission to give an agency a reasonable extension to fulfill the request if the agency, within two days after receiving the request, explains why more time is necessary to comply with it. It allows the commission to copy any records and information it obtains so that it can prepare a REIS.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (04/08/2025)