



## Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health

Nonpartisan Office of Legislative Management

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### Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements: Information Sheet & Frequently Asked Questions

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#### What is the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health?

The Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health was established through Section 2 of [Public Act 21-35](#) (codified in [C.G.S. 19a-133a](#)). Housed within Connecticut's legislative branch, our mission is to make policy and systems change recommendations to eliminate racial and ethnic inequities in health and social drivers of health. We advance this mission through study, documentation, policy analysis, and collaboration with impacted communities, state agencies, and stakeholders. [Our vision is a healthy, racially equitable Connecticut.](#)

#### What is a Racial and Ethnic Impact Statement (REIS)?

A racial and ethnic impact statement (REIS) is an informational tool for legislators which will project the likely impact of a proposed bill on racial and ethnic disparities (i.e. if the law would widen disparities, narrow disparities, or have no detectable impact on disparities). Commission REIS analysts utilize available state, national, regional, and/or local data as appropriate to conduct assessments and provide impact statements.

#### The History of REIS in Connecticut:

- **2008** – The CGA passed [PA 08-143](#) which introduced REIS into the legislative process with respect to certain bills and amendments that could, if passed, increase or decrease the pretrial or sentenced population of the correctional facilities in this state.
- **2018** – REIS was expanded through the passage of [PA 18-78](#) to enable statements to be drafted on any proposed bill.
- **2023** – The implementation of REIS was assigned to the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health, with two new analyst positions assigned in the FY 2025 budget to implement and conduct REIS.
- **2025** – The General Assembly passed [PA 25-27](#) making changes to facilitate the operationalization of REIS.
- **Fall-Winter 2025/2026** – Hiring and training of Commission REIS analysts.

### **REIS in the 2026 Legislative Session:**

In the 2026 legislative session, the Commission will run a pilot REIS process. Commission REIS analysts will produce sample REIS upon request on proposed bills during the session. The REIS produced during this pilot will be protected as a draft, and will be used to refine the procedures, test the timelines, and further develop the guidelines for future REIS products.

### **REIS in Future Legislative Sessions:**

Prior to the 2027 legislative session, the Commission will memorialize the final REIS procedures in a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Majority Leader of the Senate, Minority Leader of the Senate, Majority Leader of the House of Representatives and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives with a request for them to be included in the joint rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate. This will lead to the formal implementation of REIS within the Connecticut legislative process.

### **Who Can Request a REIS?**

Any Member of the Connecticut General Assembly can request a REIS.

### **What Bills Can a REIS be Requested on?**

A REIS can be produced on any bill favorably reported during the regular session, or any amendment introduced during the regular session.

### **When Can a Member Request a REIS?**

With respect to a bill favorably reported during the regular session, **any such request shall be made not later than 10 days after the deadline for the committee that introduced the bill to vote to report favorably under the joint rules** of the House of Representatives and the Senate. With respect to an amendment introduced during the regular session, **any such request shall be made at least 15 days prior to the deadline for adjournment sine die of the regular session.**

### **Can REIS be Requested on a Complete Bill or Can they only be on a Section?**

A REIS can be requested on a complete bill or section(s) of a bill. Since a REIS is an informational tool that is most effective when it analyzes the impact of a specific action on existing racial and ethnic disparities, in some instances it may be more feasible and effective to conduct a REIS on section(s) of a bill.

Commission REIS analysts will work with requesting Members to determine which part(s) a REIS can focus on.

### **How can a REIS be Requested?**

To initiate a request for a REIS, Members of the Connecticut General Assembly should fill out the request form found on the internet web site of the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health (CREPH) and submit it to Principal Commission Analyst Dr. Nancy Becerra-Cordoba, at [nancy.becerra-cordoba@cga.ct.gov](mailto:nancy.becerra-cordoba@cga.ct.gov).

### **How Long will it Take for a REIS to be Completed?**

Commission REIS analysts will conduct a feasibility assessment for the REIS and contact the requesting Member within three days from the submission of the request form. Once the request has been approved by the Commission's Executive Director, the REIS will be prepared and delivered within fifteen calendar days from the approval of the REIS request or the agreed upon timeline. During the pilot, 15 days will be used as the test production time for a REIS.

## **Are Requesting Members Guaranteed a REIS Upon Request?**

Due to the high volume of bills under consideration by the Connecticut General Assembly, REIS analysts will conduct a feasibility assessment to determine whether a REIS can be produced.

## **What is a Feasibility Assessment on a REIS?**

A feasibility assessment will be conducted by REIS analysts to determine whether a REIS can be produced. Factors to be considered within the feasibility assessment can include:

- The scope of the bill or section(s) of the bill.
- Availability of relevant data.
- Capacity of REIS analysts at the time the request is made.
- Special considerations may also include the populations to be studied, the methodological approach, and timeline.

The outcomes of the feasibility assessment will be communicated to the requesting Member within three days of the initial contact.

## **What is the Bill Version and LCO Number which will be Used in the REIS?**

Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements will be prepared based on the most recent official version of the bill. REIS analysts will confirm with the requesting Member which version of the bill will be analyzed. REIS analysts will track the development of the bill. Whenever amendments significantly affect the bill, or the sections addressed, revisions to the REIS may be required.

Members should indicate in the request form the bill version and LCO number that reflects the most current version of the bill.

## **How Many REIS Can the Commission Produce During Session?**

The Commission will strive to produce as many REIS as possible while maintaining the research methodology, analytical rigor, and also considering the volume of requests, Commission REIS analysts' capacity, and data availability.

## **Can REIS be Revised?**

Commission REIS analysts will track the development of a bill which has had a REIS produced. Whenever amendments significantly affect the bill, or the sections addressed, revisions to the REIS may be required. Commission REIS analysts will complete the REIS within 15 days from the date of request approval, unless an alternate timeframe has been discussed with the requesting member. The timing and preparation of revised REIS due to bill amendments is at the discretion of the REIS Analysts.

## **Where will REIS be Available?**

In the 2026 pilot, prepared REIS shall only be sent to requesting Members. Once REIS is formally introduced into the Connecticut legislative process, REIS will be made available electronically on the bill page on the Internet web site of the General Assembly.

# REIS Process

## Request on a Proposed Bill

Bill favorably reported on during the regular session.



REIS must be requested not later than 10 days after the joint favorable deadline for the committee that introduced the bill.

## Request on an Amendment

Bill favorably reported on during the regular session.



REIS must be requested at least 15 days prior to the deadline for Sine Die of the regular session.



**Note:** Once a REIS request has been submitted for a bill, Commission staff will monitor the bill's development and revise the REIS as needed if substantial changes occur that could result in racial or ethnic impacts.

\* During the pilot, 15 days will be used as the test production time for a REIS.