



Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health

Nonpartisan Office of Legislative Management

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

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 that projects the potential impacts of a proposed bill on racial and ethnic disparities (i.e., whether the law would widen, narrow, or have no detectable impact on disparities) in Connecticut. 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](#), enabling 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. Additionally, the Commission hired its first REIS analyst.
- **Winter and Spring 2026** – The Commission continued hiring and training REIS analysts. Analysts ran a REIS pilot in the 2026 session, completing five REIS and one supplemental analysis.

- **Summer and Fall 2026** – The Commission will draft the final REIS procedures and memorialize them in a letter to legislative leaders, requesting that they be included in the joint rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate at the beginning of the 2027 biennial session.
- **2027** – Formal implementation of REIS within the Connecticut legislative process will commence in the 2027 session.

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 before the deadline for adjournment sine die of the regular session.**

Can a Member request a REIS before a bill is favorably reported?

A bill is not eligible for a REIS until it is favorably reported; however, the Commission recommends that, as soon as the Member knows they wish to request a REIS on a bill, they inform the Commission of their interest. Communicating with the Commission earlier in the legislative process will help the Commission conduct a more thorough analysis and manage delivery timelines. If a member submits a request before the bill is favorably reported, the Commission will track the bill and produce the REIS only after it is favorably reported.

Can REIS be requested for a complete bill, or only for a section?

A REIS can be requested on a complete bill or section(s) of a bill depending on the bill's size and/or subject matter. For example, if a bill is an omnibus bill or contains multiple distinct topics, the requesting Member may be asked to specify which sections of the bill they would like the REIS to analyze. Since a REIS is an informational tool that is most effective when analyzing 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 Member request a REIS?

To initiate a request for a REIS, Members of the Connecticut General Assembly should fill out the request form found on the [Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health's \(CREPH\) website](#) and submit it to Commission Analyst Stephanie Costanzi at stephanie.costanzi@cga.ct.gov.

Are requesting Members guaranteed a REIS upon request?

The Commission cannot guarantee a REIS will be delivered due to a confluence of factors. REIS analysts will conduct a feasibility assessment to determine whether a REIS can be produced. Requesting Members will be informed within three days of their request whether producing a REIS is feasible. If

feasible, the Commission will proceed with producing the REIS. If not feasible, the Commission will not produce a REIS.

What is a Feasibility Assessment on a REIS?

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

- Whether the bill is ripe for racial and/or ethnic equity analysis,
- Availability of relevant data, and
- Capacity of REIS analysts.

If a REIS request is determined to be not feasible, can a Member change their request?

Yes, if the Commission determines that a REIS is not feasible, the Commission may work with the requesting Member to identify a related topic addressed in another bill or in different section(s) of the originally requested bill that may lead to a more feasible racial and ethnic impact analysis.

How long will it take for a REIS to be completed?

Once the Commission's Executive Director has approved the REIS request, the REIS will be prepared and delivered within 14 calendar days of the request date or an agreed-upon alternative timeline.

What version of the bill will be analyzed in the REIS?

REIS will be prepared based on the most recent official version of the bill. REIS analysts will track the bill's development and confirm with the requesting Member which version of the bill will be analyzed. 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. If the Member requested a REIS before the bill's favorable report out of committee, REIS analysts will track the bill and produce a REIS on the version of the bill at the time the committee votes favorably on it.

How many REIS can the Commission produce during session?

The Commission will strive to produce as many REIS as possible. Given the small number of REIS analysts and the novelty of the REIS program, the Commission may deem a request infeasible due to time and staffing constraints.

Can a REIS be revised?

Commission REIS analysts will track the development of a bill for which a REIS has been produced. Whenever amendments significantly affect the bill, or the sections addressed, revisions to the REIS may be required. The timing and preparation of revised REIS due to bill amendments is at the discretion of the REIS analysts.

Where will the completed REIS be available?

In the 2026 pilot, prepared REIS were only sent to requesting Members. Once the REIS program is formally introduced into the Connecticut legislative process in the 2027 session, the REIS will be emailed

directly to the requesting Member upon completion and also made available electronically on the bill's webpage of the General Assembly's website.

REIS Process



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.

*A feasibility assessment will consider factors such as whether the bill is ripe for racial and/or ethnic equity analysis, availability of relevant data, and capacity of REIS analysts.