
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 256 (File 26, as amended by Senate "B")*

AN ACT CONCERNING RACIAL AND ETHNIC IMPACT STATEMENTS.

SUMMARY

Beginning with the 2019 legislative session, this bill requires that a racial and ethnic impact statement (REIS) be prepared, at the request of any legislator, for certain bills and amendments. Under current law and the legislature's Joint Rules, these statements are prepared (1) at the request of a majority of the committee members present and (2) for bills and amendments that, if passed, could increase or decrease correctional facilities' pretrial or sentenced populations (see BACKGROUND).

The bill establishes the following deadlines for making REIS requests in a regular session:

1. within 10 days following the originating committee's reporting deadline, for favorably reported bills, and
2. at least 10 days before adjournment sine die, for amendments.

The bill allows the Government Administration and Elections Committee to make recommendations for a provision in the Joint Rules concerning the procedure for preparing the statements, their content, and the types of bills and amendments for which they should be prepared. Under current law, the Judiciary Committee had to make these recommendations by January 1, 2009. Both chambers adopted the Judiciary Committee's recommendations as Joint Rule 15(c)(2).

*Senate Amendment "B" adds the deadlines by which legislators must make REIS requests.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

BACKGROUND

Joint Rule 15(c)(2)

Under Joint Rule 15(c)(2), if a committee favorably reports a bill that would increase or decrease correctional facilities' pretrial or sentenced populations, a majority of the committee members present may request that a racial and ethnic impact statement be prepared. The Office of Legislative Research and Office of Fiscal Analysis must prepare the statement and, in doing so, may consult with any person or agency, including the judicial branch, Office of Policy and Management, Department of Correction, and Connecticut Sentencing Commission.

The statement must indicate (1) whether the bill would have a disparate impact on correctional facilities' racial and ethnic composition, (2) that it cannot be determined whether there would be such a disparate impact, or (3) that there is insufficient time to determine whether there would be such a disparate impact. The statement is included with the bill's file copy.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/09/2018)