



COALITION ON RACIAL EQUITY

LD 1034: An Act To Provide Funding To Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations

What is the Permanent Commission?

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations was formed in 2019 to examine racial disparities across all systems and improve opportunities and outcomes for historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal populations in the State. It is an independent government entity that is empowered to conduct research, advise all three branches of government, submit its own legislation, hold public hearings, and more. It issued its first legislative report in 2020.

What will funding support?

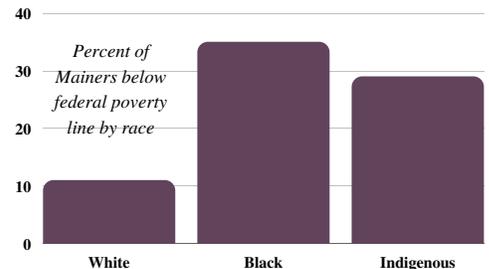
- **Full-time staffing**, including a director and other administrative and program staff to support commission meetings, conducting research, drafting written materials for commissioners to review, organizing public engagement, including public hearings, maintaining a public web presence, and raising philanthropic funds for special initiatives.
- **Administrative expenses**, like the cost of maintaining a website, office space, travel expenses, stipends for commissioners, and more.

LD 1034 will support critical racial equity work

The need for an independent body to help individuals and policymakers reckon with historical and systemic racism in Maine has never been more clear. The Permanent Commission is just such a body. With temporary staffing, the Commission was able to do amazing work, including issuing its initial report and examining the racial impact of hundreds of bills. Sustained staffing and administrative support will help Maine proactively address the underlying factors that contribute to racial disparities. **In order to continue to make progress to dismantle systemic racism, the legislature must adequately fund this crucial entity and pass LD 1034.**

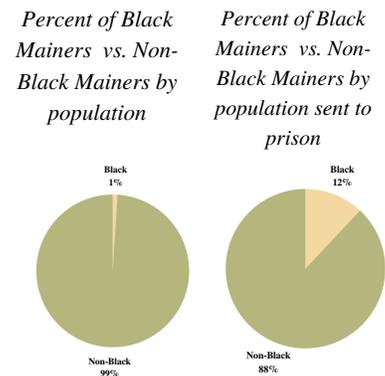
Significant disparities based on race, ethnicity, and tribal status in Maine harm all of us:

Socioeconomic Disparities



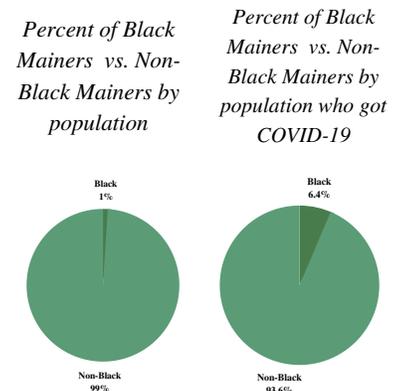
Source: 2019 5-year ACS Estimates

Criminal Justice System Disparities



Source: Council of State Governments Justice Center Report

Public Health Disparities



Source: Maine CDC