

JLARC Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements Policies and Procedures

Policies

Legislation enacted during the 2021 Special Session I requires JLARC, at the request of the chair of the House Courts of Justice Committee or the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to review the potential impact on racial and ethnic disparities within the Commonwealth of proposed criminal justice legislation (§ 30-19.1:13).

1. In accordance with § 30-19.1:13, the chairs of the House Courts of Justice Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee may request a racial and ethnic impact statement (REIS) on proposed criminal justice legislation.
2. In accordance with § 30-19.1:13, no more than three REIS may be requested by each chair (for a total of six REIS) for completion during a single regular session of the General Assembly.
3. JLARC will assess the potential disparities in criminal justice outcomes for racial or ethnic subgroups compared to their share of the state population for proposed criminal justice legislation.
4. JLARC will post each completed REIS to the JLARC website, and each one will be attached to the applicable bill in the Legislative Information System. A copy of each REIS will also be sent by email to the patron of the bill, the chair of the House Courts of Justice Committee, and the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Procedures

The chair of the House Courts of Justice Committee or the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee may initiate a racial and ethnic impact statement (REIS) by sending an email request to the JLARC director or associate director for ongoing oversight and fiscal analysis indicating the bill number and version. Email requests must come from the chair's official email account as a General Assembly member.

JLARC staff will make every effort to issue a completed REIS before the committee of the requesting chair has the last opportunity to take action on the bill. If this is not possible, the JLARC director or associate director for ongoing oversight and fiscal analysis will communicate this to the requesting chair with an estimated timeframe for completion.

Approved: October 18, 2021

