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

L.D. 1034

Date: (Filing No. H- )

**State and Local Government**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**130th Legislature**

**First Special Session**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “      ” to H.P. 768, L.D. 1034, “An Act To Provide Funding To Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act To Provide Funding To Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations and To Establish Staffing for the Commission'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§74-J,** as enacted by PL 2019, c. 457, §1, is amended to read:

**74-J.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Racial, Indigenous and ~~Maine~~ Tribal Populations |  Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and ~~Maine~~ Tribal Populations | ~~Not Authorized~~ Legislative Per Diem and Expenses |  5 MRSA §25001 |

**Sec. 2. 5 MRSA c. 631, headnote** is amended to read:

**CHAPTER 631**

**PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF RACIAL, INDIGENOUS AND ~~MAINE~~ TRIBAL POPULATIONS**

**Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §25001,** as enacted by PL 2019, c. 457, §2, is amended to read:

**§25001. Commission established**

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and ~~Maine~~ Tribal Populations, established by section 12004‑I, subsection 74‑J and referred to in this chapter as "the commission," is an independent commission. The commission shall promote, implement and coordinate programs that create and improve opportunities and incorporate the goal of eliminating disparities for historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal populations in the State.

**Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §25002, sub-§1, ¶D,** as enacted by PL 2019, c. 457, §2, is amended to read:

D. Other members:

(1) A representative from each of the federally recognized Indian tribes in the State~~.~~; and

(2) Any other individual agreed to by a majority of commission members.

**Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §25007, sub-§2, ¶D,** as enacted by PL 2019, c. 457, §2, is amended to read:

D. Submit to the Legislature~~, at the start of each regular session,~~ such legislation as the commission determines appropriate for improving opportunities and eliminating disparities for historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal populations in the State;

**Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §25009,** as enacted by PL 2019, c. 457, §2, is repealed.

**Sec. 7. 5 MRSA §25011** is enacted to read:

**§25011. Executive director; staff; duties**

The commission shall select an individual to serve as the executive director of the commission. The executive director shall hire appropriate staff to assist in carrying out the duties of the commission and shall either directly or through staff hired by the executive director:

**1. Outreach.** Provide statewide community outreach relating to the work of the commission, including engagement, training and education of:

A. The general public;

B. Affected communities; and

C. Commission members and staff;

**2. Truth and reconciliation initiative.** Launch a truth and reconciliation initiative involving a statewide qualitative and quantitative research effort to assess the effects of generational poverty and systemic racism in order to assist the commission in developing a multi-year strategic plan to address these issues;

**3. Uncover entities.** Uncover entities and places in the State that benefited from the State’s involvement in the enslavement, genocide and colonization of indigenous and African-descended populations who trace their history to the Americas and uncover entities and places in the area of the United States known as New England that benefited from the involvement in the enslavement, genocide and colonization of indigenous and African-descended populations who trace their history to the Americas;

**4. Professionalize work.** Professionalize the efforts of the commission to ensure the work of the commission is effective and sustainable and will continue to represent the diverse populations most affected by generational inequities and structural racism;

**5. Develop partnerships.** Develop appropriate partnerships and methodologies related to educational curricula and pedagogy to build a supportive school environment responsive to all students, without regard to race, ethnicity and income, that addresses and eliminates historical inequities;

**6. Examine inequities.** Examine existing inequities in economic and community development in order to encourage the self-determination, health and well-being of populations negatively affected by these inequities;

**7. Organizational capacity.**  Build and expand the organizational capacity of the commission through the inclusion of populations identified under subsection 6 in subcommittee work, initiatives, projects and activities of the commission; and

**8. Database.**  Create and maintain a database of reliable contact information for individuals affected by the inequities identified under subsection 6 and other stakeholders as well as a database of useful resources for the commission.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill. It provides compensation to the members of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations. It removes the word "Maine" from the phrase "Maine tribal populations." It permits the commission, by majority vote, to invite others to be members of the commission. It establishes the position of executive director of the commission and authorizes the executive director to hire appropriate staff to support the work of the commission. It specifies the duties of the executive director and the director's staff.