



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1113

S.P. 376

In Senate, March 22, 2021

Resolve, To Direct the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations To Study and Propose Solutions to Disparities in Access to Prenatal Care in the State

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 18, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland and
Senators: BREEN of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the study required by this resolve must be initiated before the 90-day period
4 expires so that the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine
5 Tribal Populations can submit legislation to create equity in access to prenatal care in the
6 State to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature; and

7 **Whereas,** the State has significant disparities in access to prenatal care: for example,
8 90% of all women have a prenatal visit in the first trimester, while less than 75% of African-
9 American women have a visit in the first trimester; and 4% of all women have no visit until
10 the last trimester as compared to 15% of African-American women; and

11 **Whereas,** delayed access to prenatal care increases the risk of maternal morbidity and
12 mortality and poor birth outcomes; and

13 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
14 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
15 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 **Sec. 1. Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and**
18 **Maine Tribal Populations to study and propose solutions to disparities in**
19 **access to prenatal care in the State. Resolved:** That the Permanent Commission on
20 the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations, established under the Maine
21 Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 74-J and referred to in this resolve as
22 "the commission," shall study the extent of disparities in access to prenatal care for the
23 State's racial, indigenous and tribal populations through data and other information; study
24 the causes of the disparities in access to prenatal care, including through interviews with
25 those women who had no prenatal visit until the last trimester or had no prenatal care at all;
26 and recommend solutions to disparities in access to prenatal care in the State. The
27 commission may submit legislation that serves to create equity in access to prenatal care in
28 the State to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature in accordance with Title
29 5, section 25007, subsection 2, paragraph D. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 12004-I,
30 subsection 74-J, for their expenses incurred in the work of the commission pursuant to this
31 section, members of the commission receive reimbursement pursuant to Title 5, section
32 12002-A.

33 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
34 takes effect when approved.

35 SUMMARY

36 This resolve directs the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous
37 and Maine Tribal Populations to study disparities in access to prenatal care in the State. It
38 authorizes the commission to submit legislation that serves to create equity in access to
39 prenatal care in the State to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature and allows
40 the members of the commission to be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in this work.