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**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT TO LD 870, RESOLVE DIRECTING THE PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF RACIAL, INDIGENOUS AND MAINE TRIBAL POPULATIONS TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF POLICIES REGARDING AGRICULTURE, ACCESS TO LAND, ACCESS TO GRANTS AND ACCESS TO FINANCING ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND INDIGENOUS FARMERS IN THE STATE**

Amend the bill in section 1 as follows:

**Sec. 1. Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations study. Resolved:** That the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations, established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 74-J and referred to in this resolve as "the commission," shall study the impact of policies regarding agriculture, access to land, access to grants and access to financing on African-American and indigenous farmers in the State. The commission shall report its findings and ~~may submit legislation that serves to create equity in representation and access to agricultural programs, land, grants and financing in the State~~ recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by January 17, 2022. The joint standing committee may submit a bill to the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature relating to the subject matter of the report.

**SUMMARY**

Current law provides that the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations may 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.

This amendment clarifies that the commission is required to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The amendment also provides that the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may submit a bill to the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature relating to the subject matter of the report.