

LD 1034
Proposed Sponsor Amendment
An Act to Provide Funding to Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of
Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
April 14, 2021

1. Strike "Maine" from the name of the Commission. Revise the language in the statute to make clear that the Commission includes members of Maine's federally recognized Tribes, so we do not lose the qualifying description of the tribes who have representation.
2. Allow the Commission to appoint additional members by vote of the appointed members.
3. Members shall be entitled to reimbursement and compensation as outlined in MRSA Title 5, Chapter 379.
4. The Commission may submit legislation for consideration by the Legislature at any time.
5. Three staff positions, including an Executive Director, will be created for the Commission.
6. Funds for the completion of work referred to the Commission, professional services contracts, STACAP, operating expenses, community outreach and engagement, training and education will be provided annually. The Commission will retain the authority to solicit, accept, and use private funding. The Commission is also responsible for creating and maintaining a database of reliable contact information for impacted individuals and stakeholders, as well as resources. Primary, secondary, and applied research at a published research standard as well as data collection and analysis are significant responsibilities of the Commission. Ensuring the secure maintenance of this information will require resources as well. The sponsor anticipates requiring an annual budget of \$2M.
 - a. \$400K for Personnel Services/year
 - b. \$1.6M for All Other
7. Current and incoming work for the Commission includes but is not limited to statewide community outreach involving the engagement, training, and education of the general public; impacted community engagement, training, and education; as well as Commission members and staff engagement, training, and education as mentioned above, but also:
 - a. Launch a Truth and Reconciliation initiative involving a statewide qualitative and quantitative research effort to capture the impacts of generational poverty and systemic racism. Findings from this broad-based, in-depth survey will help to inform a multi-year strategic plan.
 - b. Uncover entities having benefited from, as well as place names in the state that are tied to, Maine's and New England's involvement in the enslavement, genocide, and colonization of Indigenous and African-descended populations who trace their legacy to the Americas.
 - c. Professionalize the efforts begun in 2019 to ensure the work of the Commission is effective, sustainable, and most importantly, will continue to represent the diverse populations most impacted by generational inequities and structural racism.
 - d. Develop appropriate partnerships and methodologies related to educational curriculum and pedagogy in an effort to decolonize public education.

- e. Examine existing inequities in economic and community development in order to encourage the self-determination, health, and wellbeing of impacted populations.
- f. Build and expand the organizational capacity of the Commission through the inclusion of impacted populations in subcommittee work, initiatives, projects, and activities.