

Health Equity Impact Assessment

Name of Bill/Policy/Program/Practice: SB 256 AN ACT CONCERNING RACIAL AND ETHNIC IMPACT STATEMENTS.

Provide a summary of the policy, program, or practice being assessed.

The proposed legislation modifies CGS Sec. 2-24b. “Racial and ethnic impact statement required for certain bills and amendments,” and seeks to enable any member of the CT General Assembly (“CGA”) to request a racial and ethnic impact statement be prepared for any bills and amendments. This changes the current statute which allows the Judiciary Committee to request racial impact statements on legislation that “if passed, increase or decrease the pretrial or sentenced population of the correctional facilities in this state.”

What is the problem to be addressed by the policy/budget proposal?

The limited use of racial impact statements in the Connecticut General Assembly.

What are the stated objectives of the policy/budget proposal?

The objective of the proposed legislation is to expand the use racial and ethnic impact statements to all bills and amendments and to extend the authority to request the statements to all members of the General Assembly.

What are the potential short term and long-term consequences (intended and unintended) of the policy/budget proposal?

Intended: The short-term intended consequence of the policy is members of the Connecticut General Assembly will have the ability to request racial and ethnic impact statements that could be used to evaluate legislative proposals. These statements, if done correctly, could reveal how any proposed legislation could exacerbate or resolve any racial and ethnic disparities. In the long-term, this could lead to the passage of better, more informed policy decisions that would lead to a more equitable state for all residents in Connecticut, regardless of race or ethnicity.

Unintended: In the short-term, if legislators do not request the statements, the status quo remains. If the legislators do request the statements and there is not adequate staff support to do a thorough analysis and/or adequate data to produce the analysis, then the statements become meaningless and useless. This could lead to a lack of belief in the need for such statements and/or the lack of belief that racial and ethnic disparities exist.

Which geographic areas will be impacted? (Check all that apply and name.)

- Statewide:
- County: _____
- Region: _____
- City: _____
- Neighborhood: _____
- Zip code(s): _____

Other:

What is the racial/ethnic breakdown of those living in the impacted area(s)? Source?

US Census ACS 2016

Population	Data
White	77.6%
Black or African American	10.1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%...11,256
Asian	3.8%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0% 1,428
Two or More Races	2.6%
Hispanic or Latinx	13.45%

Based on your perception, who do you think will be disproportionately affected by this policy? Who may be affected by the issue more than others? (Check all that apply.) In the blank, place the ethnicity if known. Ie...Irish, Jamaican, Peruvian, Nigerian.

There is no perceived disproportional impact from the policy.

- Poor or low-income individuals or families
- Racial or ethnic groups.
 - American Indian or Alaskan Native: _____
 - Asian: _____
 - Black or African American: _____
 - Hispanic or Latino: _____
 - Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: _____
 - Non-Hispanic White: _____
 - Other (specify) : _____

- Individuals/Families with limited English proficiency
- Individuals/Families with physical or behavioral disabilities
- Children
- Adolescents
- Elderly
- LGBTQ
- Rural
- Immigrants or Refugees
- Other: _____

Describe your rationale:

The racial and ethnic impact statement has the potential to impact people of all races since it will provide analysis of how bills and amendments impact people based on race.

Who does the data suggest this policy will affect disproportionately to other groups?

In the blank, place the ethnicity if known. i.e...Irish, Jamaican, Peruvian, Nigerian.

There is no disproportionate impact

- American Indian or Alaskan Native: _____
- Asian: _____
- Black or African American: _____
- Hispanic or Latino: _____
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: _____
- Non-Hispanic White: _____
- Other (specify): _____

How does the data suggest these racial and ethnic groups may be affected? Provide sources.

Example: In 2018, American Indians in South Carolina (SC) will likely be affected by S./H. ###, by experiencing decreased access to education in SC public colleges.

Currently, people of color make up roughly 23% of CT's population, but are overrepresented in statistics related to poverty, poor housing, poor health, education outcomes, and the criminal justice system. The racial impact statements can bring attention to how certain proposed bills and amendments may resolve these issues and/or further exacerbate the status quo.

Which social determinants of health are the target of the policy/budget proposal?

While the proposed legislation does not explicitly call out social determinants of health, racial and ethnic disparate impact and/or latent racial impact are addressed by the proposal. If passed, the legislation has the potential to address all social determinants of health categories through the lens of racial and ethnic impact.

- Education
- Community Development
- Health
- Environment
- Criminal Justice
- Employment
- Housing
- Transportation
- Other:

How will the policy, program, intervention improve health equity for each of the groups identified above? What benefits may result?

The racial and ethnic impact statements have the potential to improve health equity if they are requested for bills related to health, health care, access and quality. If racial impact statements demonstrate a negative impact on any specific racial or ethnic population(s) then legislators have

opportunities to redress these impacts by proposing legislation or amendments that increase the racial equity of such proposals.

How will the proposed policy, program, or intervention have a negative impact on health equity for those groups identified above? What inequities may result?

There is not a perceived negative impact on health equity.

Describe how success of the proposed policy/budget proposal is defined/known in the short and long term? [measurement/implementation plan/review/evaluation]

This policy is successful if legislators request the racial and ethnic impact statements and then use the knowledge of those statements to improve legislation in ways that increase racial equity.

Are there specific recommendations that would improve/increase the positive health equity impact of this proposal? Provide specific and detailed notes regarding your rationale for proposing the above recommendations to the policy/budget proposal. If not changes necessary, please explain why.

The policy could be expanded to consider the health and/or health equity impact of all legislation and/or amendments. This expansion would directly provide accountability toward the goal of a more healthy and equitable Connecticut. In absence of this, the racial and ethnic impact statements will greatly illuminate the racial equity impact, which when applied to health-related proposals, will illuminate the impact on health equity.