

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1008

H.P. 709

House of Representatives, March 14, 2017

**An Act To Establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of
Racial and Ethnic Populations**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: MARTIN of Sinclair, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, Senator:
DESCHAMBAULT of York.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§74-J** is enacted to read:

3 **74-J.**

4 <u>Racial and Ethnic</u>	<u>Permanent</u>	<u>Not Authorized</u>	<u>5 MRSA §25001</u>
5 <u>Populations</u>	<u>Commission on the</u>		
6	<u>Status of Racial and</u>		
7	<u>Ethnic Populations</u>		

8 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA Pt. 31** is enacted to read:

9 **PART 31**

10 **PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC**
11 **POPULATIONS**

12 **CHAPTER 631**

13 **PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC**
14 **POPULATIONS**

15 **§25001. Commission established**

16 The Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Populations
17 established by section 12004-I, subsection 74-J and referred to in this chapter as "the
18 commission," is an independent commission. The commission shall promote, carry out
19 and coordinate programs designed to improve opportunities for racial and ethnic
20 populations in the State.

21 **§25002. Membership**

22 The commission consists of 17 members, including 7 appointed by the Governor, 5
23 appointed by the President of the Senate and 5 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives. In making these appointments, the Governor, the President of the
25 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall consider and appoint
26 residents of the State who have a knowledge of problems facing racial and ethnic
27 populations in the State, who have experience in advocacy relating to racial and ethnic
28 populations' issues and who provide leadership in programs or activities that improve
29 opportunities for racial and ethnic populations. The members of the commission must be
30 chosen from throughout the State, and the majority of members must be members of
31 racial and ethnic populations. A member of the Legislature may not be appointed to the
32 commission. The Governor shall appoint one member representing each of the
33 following: the elderly, low-income people, persons with disabilities, youth, victims of
34 domestic violence and federally recognized Indian tribes in the State.

1 **§25003. Term of office**

2 Members of the commission are appointed for 2-year terms. A member may serve
3 multiple terms.

4 Members of the commission may serve after the expiration of their terms until their
5 successors have taken office. The Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker
6 of the House may terminate the membership of their respective appointees for good
7 cause. The reason for the termination must be communicated in writing to a member
8 whose membership is terminated. The membership of any member of the commission
9 must be terminated if the member is absent from 3 consecutive meetings without
10 communicating good cause to the chair of the commission.

11 **§25004. Vacancies**

12 A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for
13 which the member's predecessor was appointed serves only for the remainder of that term
14 and must be appointed by the same appointing authority. Any vacancy on the
15 commission does not affect its powers.

16 **§25005. Chair**

17 The Governor shall select a chair from among the members of the commission. The
18 chair is authorized to appoint subcommittees.

19 **§25006. Powers and duties**

20 The commission shall advise and consult with the Governor and the Legislature
21 about, and assist them in improving, opportunities for racial and ethnic populations in the
22 State by:

23 1. Research. Carrying out research programs necessary to determine the status of
24 racial and ethnic populations in the State;

25 2. Activities. Promoting and coordinating activities on state and local levels
26 designed to meet the problems of racial and ethnic populations in the State;

27 3. Advocate. Serving as an advocate for racial and ethnic populations in making
28 recommendations on proposed budgetary, legislative and policy actions to the Governor,
29 the Legislature and other officials of the State and the Federal Government with respect
30 to state and federal policies, programs and other activities affecting or relating to racial
31 and ethnic populations in the State;

32 4. Information. Informing the public about the presence or absence of opportunities
33 for racial and ethnic populations in the State;

34 5. Meetings. Conducting public hearings, conferences, workshops and other such
35 meetings to obtain information about, discuss and publicize the needs of and solutions to
36 the problems of racial and ethnic populations; and

