

Illinois Racial Impact Note Act

Language contained in HB 158 (Public Act 102-0004)

Chief sponsors: Rep. Camille Lilly/Sen. Mattie Hunter

Signed into Law 4/27/21

HB 158 contains a provision that:

- Creates the Racial Impact Note Act. The Act requires, upon the request of a member, a state agency or board to prepare a statement or note on introduced legislation that provides a reliable estimate of the anticipated impact on racial and ethnic minorities likely to be affected by the bill.

Racial Impact Notes

Creating a Racial Impact Note Act provides within the legislative process a means of examining the consequences of a proposed bill along racial and ethnic lines.

It means looking at statistics on current circumstances faced by each group whether it is with regards to household income, housing costs, ability to afford college, academic proficiency at various grade levels or any other data point and what disparities exist by race or ethnicity for each data point.

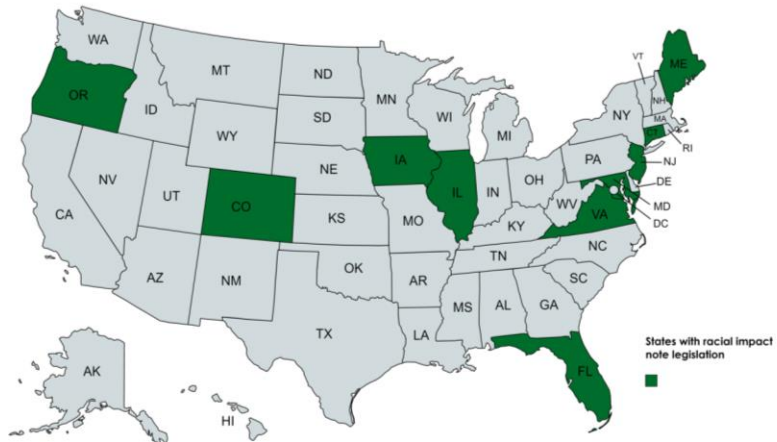
It means asking how proposed legislation might impact each group and whether it will close the range of disparities that exist for those data points or increase inequalities.

Racial Impact Notes are designed to help in the decision-making process prior to enacting new legislation.



Ten states – Illinois, Iowa, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida**, Oregon, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey and Virginia – have implemented mechanisms for the preparation and consideration of racial impact statements.*

Illinois and Connecticut laws apply to legislation covering a broad range of subjects, whereas others are focused to criminal justice, child welfare, or other areas.



**Colorado does not have a racial impact statement, but does collect demographic information to support a racial impact analysis*

*** In 2019, Florida announced an agreement between Florida State University and the Florida Senate to provide empirically-based racial/ethnic impact statements for select bills that will be heard by the Senate's Criminal Justice Committee.*

For more information, contact Dr. Tasha Green Cruzat, Children's Advocates for Change, 312-351-5600.