

# Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Angela Romero**

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

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## LONG TITLE

~~→~~ [Committee Note:

~~The Native American Legislative Liaison Committee recommended this bill.~~

~~Legislative Vote: 8 voting for 0 voting against 3 absent } ←~~

## General Description:

This bill reestablishes the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Task Force.

## Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- reestablishes the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force, with the membership consisting of ~~→~~ [nine] ten ~~←~~ members from government and community organizations;
- requires that any vacancy in the task force be filled in the same manner as the original appointment;
- designates the appointees from the Senate and House of Representatives as the cochair of the task force;
- establishes that a quorum of the task force consists of five members and that majority action of the quorum is required for task force decisions;
- establishes compensation requirements for both legislator members and non-legislator members of the task force;
- requires that the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel provide staff support to the task force;
- provides for the responsibilities of the task force;
- provides that the task force must report its findings to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee; and
- provides for the repeal of the task force.

## Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**63I-2-236**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5

ENACTS:

**36-29-107.6**, Utah Code Annotated 1953*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*Section 1. Section **36-29-107.6** is enacted to read:

**36-29-107.6 . Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force -- Creation  
-- Membership -- Quorum -- Compensation -- Staff -- Vacancies -- Duties -- Interim  
report.**

(1) As used in this section, "task force" means the Murdered and Missing Indigenous  
Relatives Task Force created in Subsection (2).

(2) There is created the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force consisting  
of the following ~~ten~~ **ten** members:

(a) one member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate;

(b) one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House  
of Representatives;

(c) the following three members, appointed jointly by the president of the Senate and the  
speaker of the House of Representatives:

(i) a member of a nonprofit organization primarily serving Utah's Native American  
community;

(ii) a representative of a Utah Native American tribe; and

(iii) a representative of a victim advocate organization serving Utah's Native  
American population;

(d) the director of the Division of Indian Affairs, or the director's designee;

(e) the executive director of the Department of Health Human Services, or the executive  
director's designee;

(f) the attorney general, or the attorney general's designee; ~~and~~

(g) the commissioner of public safety for the Department of Public Safety, or the  
commissioner's designee ~~;~~ ; and

(h) one member appointed by an association that represents the sheriffs in the state.

- (3) A vacancy in a position appointed under Subsection (2)(a), (b), or (c) shall be filled by appointing a replacement member in the same manner as the member creating the vacancy was appointed under Subsection (2)(a), (b), or (c).
- (4)(a) The member of the Senate appointed under Subsection (2)(a) is a cochair of the task force.
- (b) The member of the House of Representatives appointed under Subsection (2)(b) is a cochair of the task force.
- (5)(a) A quorum consists of five members.
- (b) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes an action of the task force.
- (6)(a) Salaries and expenses of the members of the task force who are legislators shall be paid in accordance with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Chapter 3, Legislator Compensation.
- (b) A member of the task force who is not a legislator:
- (i) may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service associated with the task force; and
- (ii) may receive per diem and travel expenses incurred as a member of the task force at the rates the Division of Finance establishes in accordance with:
- (A) Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107; and
- (B) rules the Division of Finance makes in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to carry out the provisions of Sections 63A-1-106 and 63A-3-107.
- (7) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support to the task force.
- (8) The task force shall:
- (a) conduct appropriate consultations with tribal governments on the scope and nature of the issues regarding murdered and missing indigenous individuals;
- (b) develop model protocols and procedures to apply to new and unsolved cases of murdered or missing indigenous individuals, including the best practices for:
- (i) improving the way law enforcement investigators and prosecutors respond to the high volume of the cases and to the investigative challenges that might be presented in cases involving female victims;
- (ii) collecting and sharing data among various jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies; and
- (iii) better using existing criminal databases;

- (c) seek input from multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional persons, including representatives from tribal law enforcement and federal agencies, about how to review cold cases involving murdered and missing indigenous individuals; and
- (d) address the need for greater clarity concerning roles, authorities, and jurisdiction throughout the life cycle of cases involving murdered and missing indigenous individuals, by discussing:
- (i) best practices in cases involving murdered and missing indigenous individuals, including best practices related to communication with affected families from initiation of an investigation through case resolution or closure; and
- (ii) education programs and outreach campaigns to communities that are most affected by crime resulting in murdered and missing indigenous individuals, that help to identify and reduce the crime that results in murdered and missing indigenous individuals.

(9)(a) On or before September 30, 2026, the task force shall provide a report to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee.

- (b) The report described in Subsection (9)(a) shall include a summary of the task force's findings under Subsection (8) and recommendations for improvements to the criminal justice and social service systems for preventing and addressing crimes involving murdered and missing indigenous individuals in the state.

Section 2. Section **63I-2-236** is amended to read:

**63I-2-236 . Repeal dates: Title 36.**

(1) Section 36-12-8.2, Medical cannabis governance structure working group, is repealed July 1, 2025.

(2) Section 36-29-107.5, Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force -- Creation -- Membership -- Quorum -- Compensation -- Staff -- Vacancies -- Duties -- Interim report, is repealed November 30, 2024.

(3) Section 36-29-107.6, Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force -- Creation -- Membership -- Quorum -- Compensation -- Staff -- Vacancies -- Duties -- Interim Report, is repealed July 1, 2027.

~~[(3)]~~ (4) Section 36-29-109, Utah Broadband Center Advisory Commission, is repealed November 30, 2027.

~~[(4)]~~ (5) Section 36-29-110, Blockchain and Digital Innovation Task Force, is repealed November 30, 2024.

Section 3. **Effective date.**

131    This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.