

Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Angela Romero

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 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 cochairs 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

32 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

33 AMENDS:

34 **63I-2-236**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5

35 ENACTS:

36 **36-29-107.6**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

37

38 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*39 Section 1. Section **36-29-107.6** is enacted to read:

40 **36-29-107.6 . Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force -- Creation**
41 **-- Membership -- Quorum -- Compensation -- Staff -- Vacancies -- Duties -- Interim**
42 **report.**

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

45 (2) There is created the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force consisting
46 of the following nine members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

61 (g) the commissioner of public safety for the Department of Public Safety, or the
62 commissioner's designee.

63 (3) A vacancy in a position appointed under Subsection (2)(a), (b), or (c) shall be filled by
64 appointing a replacement member in the same manner as the member creating the
65 vacancy was appointed under Subsection (2)(a), (b), or (c).

- 66 (4)(a) The member of the Senate appointed under Subsection (2)(a) is a cochair of the
67 task force.
- 68 (b) The member of the House of Representatives appointed under Subsection (2)(b) is a
69 cochair of the task force.
- 70 (5)(a) A quorum consists of five members.
- 71 (b) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes an action of the task force.
- 72 (6)(a) Salaries and expenses of the members of the task force who are legislators shall
73 be paid in accordance with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5,
74 Chapter 3, Legislator Compensation.
- 75 (b) A member of the task force who is not a legislator:
- 76 (i) may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service associated with
77 the task force; and
- 78 (ii) may receive per diem and travel expenses incurred as a member of the task force
79 at the rates the Division of Finance establishes in accordance with:
- 80 (A) Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107; and
- 81 (B) rules the Division of Finance makes in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3,
82 Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to carry out the provisions of Sections
83 63A-1-106 and 63A-3-107.
- 84 (7) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support to
85 the task force.
- 86 (8) The task force shall:
- 87 (a) conduct appropriate consultations with tribal governments on the scope and nature of
88 the issues regarding murdered and missing indigenous individuals;
- 89 (b) develop model protocols and procedures to apply to new and unsolved cases of
90 murdered or missing indigenous individuals, including the best practices for:
- 91 (i) improving the way law enforcement investigators and prosecutors respond to the
92 high volume of the cases and to the investigative challenges that might be
93 presented in cases involving female victims;
- 94 (ii) collecting and sharing data among various jurisdictions and law enforcement
95 agencies; and
- 96 (iii) better using existing criminal databases;
- 97 (c) seek input from multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional persons, including
98 representatives from tribal law enforcement and federal agencies, about how to
99 review cold cases involving murdered and missing indigenous individuals; and

- 100 (d) address the need for greater clarity concerning roles, authorities, and jurisdiction
101 throughout the life cycle of cases involving murdered and missing indigenous
102 individuals, by discussing:
- 103 (i) best practices in cases involving murdered and missing indigenous individuals,
104 including best practices related to communication with affected families from
105 initiation of an investigation through case resolution or closure; and
- 106 (ii) education programs and outreach campaigns to communities that are most
107 affected by crime resulting in murdered and missing indigenous individuals, that
108 help to identify and reduce the crime that results in murdered and missing
109 indigenous individuals.

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

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

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

117 **63I-2-236 . Repeal dates: Title 36.**

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

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

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

126 [(3)] (4) Section 36-29-109, Utah Broadband Center Advisory Commission, is repealed
127 November 30, 2027.

128 [(4)] (5) Section 36-29-110, Blockchain and Digital Innovation Task Force, is repealed
129 November 30, 2024.

130 Section 3. **Effective date.**

131 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.