

**Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Angela Romero**

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**LONG TITLE****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

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

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

32 ENACTS:

33 **36-29-107.6**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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35 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

36 Section 1. Section **36-29-107.6** is enacted to read:

37 **36-29-107.6 . Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force -- Creation**  
38 **-- Membership -- Quorum -- Compensation -- Staff -- Vacancies -- Duties -- Interim**  
39 **report.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

63 (4)(a) The member of the Senate appointed under Subsection (2)(a) is a cochair of the  
64 task force.

65 (b) The member of the House of Representatives appointed under Subsection (2)(b) is a

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

- 100 (i) best practices in cases involving murdered and missing indigenous individuals,  
101 including best practices related to communication with affected families from  
102 initiation of an investigation through case resolution or closure; and  
103 (ii) education programs and outreach campaigns to communities that are most  
104 affected by crime resulting in murdered and missing indigenous individuals, that  
105 help to identify and reduce the crime that results in murdered and missing  
106 indigenous individuals.

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

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

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

114 **63I-2-236 . Repeal dates: Title 36.**

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

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

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

123 [(3)] (4) Section 36-29-109, Utah Broadband Center Advisory Commission, is repealed  
124 November 30, 2027.

125 [(4)] (5) Section 36-29-110, Blockchain and Digital Innovation Task Force, is repealed  
126 November 30, 2024.

127 Section 3. **Effective date.**

128 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.