

1 **Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Angela Romero

Senate Sponsor:

2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill enacts provisions for the training for resources related to the murder and
5 disappearance of an indigenous individual.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 8
- 9 ▶ defines terms;
 - 10 ▶ requires that the Office of American Indian-Alaska Native Health and Family Services
11 (office) create a curriculum for training related to the investigation of a murder or
12 disappearance of an indigenous individual;
 - 13 ▶ provides the requirements for what the curriculum the office develops shall contain;
 - 14 ▶ provides that the office may coordinate with certain persons when developing the
15 curriculum; and
 - 16 ▶ makes technical changes.

17 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

18 None

19 **Other Special Clauses:**

20 None

21 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

22 AMENDS:

23 **26B-1-231**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 305

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

25 Section 1. Section **26B-1-231** is amended to read:

26 **26B-1-231 . Office of American Indian-Alaska Native Health and Family**
27 **Services -- Creation -- Director -- Purpose -- Duties.**

28 (1) As used in this section:

29 (a) "Director" means the director of the office appointed under Subsection (3).
30

- 31 (b) "Missing or murdered indigenous individual" means an individual of tribal origin
32 who has gone missing or is murdered.
- 33 ~~(b)~~ (c) "Office" means the Office of American Indian-Alaska Native Health and Family
34 Services created in Subsection (2).
- 35 (d) "Peace officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-1-102.
- 36 (2) There is created within the department the Office of American Indian-Alaska Native
37 Health and Family Services.
- 38 (3) The executive director shall appoint a director of the office who:
39 (a) has a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college;
40 (b) is experienced in administration; and
41 (c) is knowledgeable about the areas of American Indian-Alaska Native practices.
- 42 (4)(a) The director is the administrative head of the office and shall serve under the
43 supervision of the executive director.
- 44 (b) The executive director may hire staff as necessary to carry out the duties of the office
45 described in Subsection (5)(b).
- 46 (5)(a) The purpose of the office is to oversee and coordinate department services for
47 Utah's American Indian-Alaska Native populations.
- 48 (b) The office shall:
49 (i) oversee and coordinate department services for Utah's American Indian-Alaska
50 Native populations;
51 (ii) conduct regular and meaningful consultation with Indian tribes when there is a
52 proposed department action that has an impact on an Indian tribe as a sovereign
53 entity;
54 (iii) monitor agreements between the department and Utah's American Indian-Alaska
55 Native populations;~~and]~~
56 (iv) oversee the health liaison appointed under Section 26B-1-232 and ICWA liaison
57 appointed under Section 26B-1-233[-] ;
58 (v) create a training curriculum designed for a peace officer conducting an
59 investigation of a missing or murdered indigenous individual that covers:
60 (A) methods that a peace officer may use to gather accurate and complete
61 information relating to the race, ethnicity, and tribal affiliation of a missing or
62 murdered indigenous individual;
63 (B) principles of tribal sovereignty and how the principles relate to an
64 investigation into the disappearance or murder of a missing or murdered

- 65 indigenous individual;
66 (C) federal, state, and tribal laws that relate to an investigation into the
67 disappearance or murder of a missing or murdered indigenous individual;
68 (D) methods of coordination with family members of a missing or murdered
69 indigenous individual during the investigation into the disappearance or murder
70 of the missing or murdered indigenous individual; and
71 (E) best practices for interviewing family members of a missing or murdered
72 indigenous individual during the investigation into the disappearance or murder
73 of the missing or murdered indigenous individual; and
74 (vi) at least once every three years, review and update the curriculum described in
75 Subsection (5)(b)(v).
76 (c) The office may coordinate with universities, non-profit organizations, and any other
77 person with subject-matter expertise relating to the curriculum described in
78 Subsection (5)(b)(v) to develop the curriculum described in Subsection (5)(b)(v).

79 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

80 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.