

MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS TASK FORCE SUNSET EXTENSION

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Angela Romero

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

LONG TITLE

Committee Note:

The Native American Legislative Liaison Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 10 voting for 0 voting against 1 absent

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- changes the name of the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force (task force) to the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force; and

- extends from November 30, 2023, to November 30, 2024:

- the repeal date for the task force; and

- the deadline for the required report from the task force to the Law Enforcement and Justice Interim Committee.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None



28 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

29 AMENDS:

30 **36-29-107.5**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 250

31 **63I-2-236**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 97, 141, 363, 437, and 458

32

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

33 Section 1. Section **36-29-107.5** is amended to read:

34 **36-29-107.5. Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force -- Creation**
35 **-- Membership -- Quorum -- Compensation -- Staff -- Vacancies -- Duties -- Interim**
36 **report.**

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

39 (2) There is created the Murdered and Missing Indigenous [Women and Girls]
40 Relatives Task Force consisting of the following nine members:

41 (a) one member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate;
42 (b) one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House
43 of Representatives;

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

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

48 (ii) a representative of a Utah Native American tribe; and
49 (iii) a representative of a victim advocate organization serving Utah's Native American
50 population;

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

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

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

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

57 (3) A vacancy in a position appointed under Subsection (2)(a), (b), or (c) shall be filled

59 by appointing a replacement member in the same manner as the member creating the vacancy
60 was appointed under Subsection (2)(a), (b), or (c).

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

63 (b) The member of the House of Representatives appointed under Subsection (2)(b) is
64 a cochair of the task force.

65 (5) (a) A quorum consists of five members.

66 (b) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes an action of the task force.

67 (6) (a) Salaries and expenses of the members of the task force who are legislators shall
68 be paid in accordance with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Chapter 3,
69 Legislator Compensation.

70 (b) A member of the task force who is not a legislator:

71 (i) may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service associated with
72 the task force; and

73 (ii) may receive per diem and travel expenses incurred as a member of the task force at
74 the rates the Division of Finance establishes in accordance with:

75 (A) Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107; and

76 (B) rules the Division of Finance makes in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
77 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to carry out the provisions of Sections 63A-3-106 and
78 63A-3-107.

79 (7) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support
80 to the task force.

81 (8) The task force shall:

82 (a) conduct appropriate consultations with tribal governments on the scope and nature
83 of the issues regarding murdered and missing indigenous women and girls;

84 (b) develop model protocols and procedures to apply to new and unsolved cases of
85 murdered or missing indigenous women and girls, including the best practices for:

86 (i) improving the way law enforcement investigators and prosecutors respond to the
87 high volume of the cases, and to the investigative challenges that might be presented in cases
88 involving female victims;

89 (ii) collecting and sharing data among various jurisdictions and law enforcement

90 agencies; and

91 (iii) better use of existing criminal databases;

92 (c) seek input from multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional persons, including

93 representatives from tribal law enforcement and federal agencies, about how to review cold

94 cases involving murdered and missing indigenous women and girls; and

95 (d) address the need for greater clarity concerning roles, authorities, and jurisdiction

96 throughout the lifecycle of cases involving murdered and missing indigenous women and girls,

97 by discussing:

98 (i) best practices in cases involving murdered and missing indigenous women and girls,

99 including best practices related to communication with affected families from initiation of an

100 investigation through case resolution or closure; and

101 (ii) education and outreach campaigns for communities that are most affected by crime

102 resulting in murdered and missing indigenous women and girls, to identify and reduce the

103 crime.

104 (9) (a) On or before November 30, [2023] 2024, the task force shall provide a report to

105 the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee.

106 (b) The report described in Subsection (9)(a) shall include a summary of the task

107 force's findings under Subsection (8) and recommendations for improvements in the criminal

108 justice and social service systems for preventing and addressing crimes involving murdered and

109 missing indigenous women and girls, in the state.

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

111 **63I-2-236. Repeal dates: Title 36.**

112 (1) Section 36-12-8.2 is repealed July 1, 2023.

113 (2) Section 36-29-107.5 is repealed on November 30, [2023] 2024.

114 (3) Section 36-29-109 is repealed on November 30, 2027.

115 (4) Section 36-29-110 is repealed on November 30, 2024.

116 (5) Section 36-29-111 is repealed April 30, 2023.

117 (6) The following sections regarding the State Flag Task Force are repealed on January

118 1, 2024:

119 (a) Section 36-29-201;

120 (b) Section 36-29-202; and

121 (c) Section 36-29-203.
122 (7) Title 36, Chapter 29, Part 3, Mental Illness Psychotherapy Drug Task Force, is
123 repealed December 31, 2023.