

HOUSE BILL NO. 20

INTRODUCED BY R. PEPPERS

BY REQUEST OF THE STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO THE REPORTING OF MISSING CHILDREN; REQUIRING REPORTS TO BE FILED IN CERTAIN CUSTODIAL INTERFERENCE CASES; AND AMENDING SECTION 44-2-504, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 44-2-504, MCA, is amended to read:

**"44-2-504. Reports to missing children information program -- custodial interference.** (1) ~~All state, county, and municipal~~ law enforcement authorities in the state shall submit information regarding a missing child to the missing children information program provided for in 44-2-503 ~~any missing child report and other information required by 44-2-401.~~

(2) Any parent, guardian, or legal custodian may submit a missing child report to the missing children information program on any child whose whereabouts is unknown, regardless of the circumstances, subsequent to making a report to the appropriate law enforcement authority ~~within the county in which the child became~~ missing.

(3) The parent, guardian, or legal custodian responsible for notifying the missing children information program or a law enforcement authority of a missing child shall immediately notify the authority and the program of any child whose location has been determined.

(4) When a law enforcement authority takes a report of what the authority reasonably believes is custodial interference, as described in 45-5-304, the authority shall also collect detailed biographical and contact information for all involved parties, including the reporting party, any alleged suspects, and the alleged missing or involved child. If the whereabouts of the involved child is unknown, the law enforcement authority shall file a missing child report.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell



1 Chippewa tribe.

2

- END -