

1 SENATE BILL NO. 4

2 INTRODUCED BY J. SMALL

3 BY REQUEST OF THE STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

4
5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXTENDING THE TERMINATION OF THE MISSING
6 INDIGENOUS PERSONS TASK FORCE; REQUIRING THE TASK FORCE TO WORK TOWARD
7 IDENTIFYING CAUSES CONTRIBUTING TO MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS;
8 AMENDING SECTION 44-2-411, MCA; AMENDING SECTION 8, CHAPTER 373, LAWS OF 2019; AND
9 PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

10
11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12
13 **Section 1.** Section 44-2-411, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"44-2-411. (Temporary) Missing indigenous persons task force -- membership -- duties --**
15 **reporting.** (1) There is a missing indigenous persons task force. The task force is allocated to the department
16 of justice for staffing services and administrative purposes only.

17 (2) Task force members, including the presiding officer, must be appointed by the attorney general or
18 a designee of the attorney general. The task force membership must include but is not limited to:

19 (a) an employee of the department of justice who has expertise in the subject of missing persons;

20 (b) a representative from each ~~tribal government located on the seven~~ federally recognized Indian
21 tribe in Montana reservations and the Little Shell-Chippewa tribe;

22 (c) a member from the Montana highway patrol; and

23 (d) a representative from the attorney general's office.

24 (3) While respecting the government-to-government relationship between the state and each tribe, the
25 primary duties of the task force are to:

26 (a) ~~administer the looping in native communities network grant program provided for in 44-2-412; and~~

27 ~~(b) (i) identify jurisdictional barriers between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and~~
28 community agencies;

(B) WORK TO IDENTIFY CAUSES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES IN THE STATE TO REDUCE CASES OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS; and

~~(ii)(b)~~ (c) work to identify strategies to improve interagency communication, cooperation, and collaboration to remove jurisdictional barriers and increase reporting and investigation of missing indigenous persons.

~~(4) (a) The task force members must be appointed within 60 days after May 8, 2019.~~ A vacancy on the task force must be filled in the manner of the original appointment.

~~(b) The task force shall develop and finalize the looping in native communities network grant application and award criteria no later than October 15, 2019.~~

~~(c) The task force shall select the recipient of the looping in native communities network competitive grant under 44-2-412(2) and disburse the grant funds no later than March 15, 2020.~~

~~(d) The task force must select eligible grantees and disburse funds for any grants awarded pursuant to 44-2-412(3) by June 30, 2020.~~

~~(e) The task force shall convene at least one meeting with tribal and local law enforcement agencies, federally recognized tribes, and urban Indian organizations for the purposes of subsection (3)(b) and to determine the scope of the problem of missing indigenous women and children.~~

~~(f)(5) The~~ By July 1 prior to each regular legislative session, the task force shall, in accordance with 5-11-210, prepare a ~~written~~ written report of findings and recommendations for submission to the state-tribal relations interim committee provided for in 5-5-229, ~~no later than September 1, 2020. The report must include a recommendation to the 67th legislature as to whether the task force should continue in existence. (Terminates June 30, 2024~~ 2023 --sec. 8, Ch. 373, L. 2019.)"

Section 2. Section 8, Chapter 373, Laws of 2019, is amended to read:

"Section 8. Termination. ~~[This act terminates (1) [Section 1] terminates June 30, 2023.~~

~~(2) [Sections 2 and 3] terminate June 30, 2021. "~~

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a

1 copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

2

3 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

4 - END -