

Study: HJ 1 Interim Study Poll Rank: 4 of 6

Short Title: Interim study on missing youth

Staff Recommendation: State-Tribal Committee

Preliminary Analysis

Issue(s) as listed in legislation:

- 80% of all missing persons in Montana are youth under 18 years of age.

Preliminary study approach:

Study how the state of Montana can reduce the number of missing youth and increase the chances of quickly locating missing youth by:

- Studying the issue in collaboration with relevant state government agencies, youth organizations, tribal governments, the court system, and other stakeholders.
- Collect information about missing youth cases and reasons why youth are reported missing
- Examine data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Analyze data from specific subgroups of missing youth, including indigenous youth, youth in foster care, and youth who go missing more than once
- Examine how other states and jurisdictions have attempted to reduce the number of missing youth and the amount of time for missing youth to be located, including whether those approaches could be applicable for Montana

Deliverables; end products:

Findings reviewed by assigned interim committee, study completed by September 15, 2024, final report with recommendations presented to 69th legislature.

Role for LFD or LAD staff? Yes No

Role for Executive agency? DOJ Missing Persons Specialist, Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force, and Missing Indigenous Persons Review Commission; OPI; DPHHS.

Additional costs, over meetings? Yes No

Estimated LSD staff time: 288-720 hours

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.
.05 FTE = 144 hrs = 18
.10 FTE = 288 hrs = 36 days
.25 FTE = 720 hrs = 90 days
.50 FTE = 1440 hrs = 180 days
.75 FTE = 2160 hrs = 270 days
1 FTE = 2880 hrs = 360 days