

Unofficial Draft Copy

As of: June 11, 2018 (9:55am)

LCdoj1

**** Bill No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the *****

****For public comment July 18 - August 17, 2018****

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act establishing "Hanna's Act"; authorizing the department of justice to assist with the investigation of all missing persons cases; requiring the employment of a missing persons specialist; providing duties; and providing an effective date."

WHEREAS, this act is to be known as "Hanna's Act" in remembrance of Hanna Harris, a Lame Deer woman who was murdered in 2013 on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Department of justice missing persons response -- missing persons specialist.** (1) The department of justice may assist with the investigation of all missing persons cases, regardless of the age of the missing person, in accordance with Title 44, chapter 2, parts 4 and 5.

(2) (a) The department shall employ a missing persons specialist responsible for working closely with local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement authorities on missing persons cases. The specialist shall:

(i) provide guidance and support to law enforcement authorities and families in the search for missing persons;

Unofficial Draft Copy

As of: June 11, 2018 (9:55am)

LCdoj1

(ii) oversee entries into the database of the national crime information center of the United States department of justice and other databases to ensure records of missing persons are accurate, complete, and made in a timely fashion;

(iii) manage the state missing persons database and missing persons public information website;

(iv) network with other state and international missing persons programs and the national center for missing and exploited children to aid in locating children who are unlawfully taken out of or unlawfully brought into Montana;

(v) provide public outreach and education on missing persons issues and the prevention of child abductions;

(vi) issue alerts and advisories at the request of law enforcement authorities to activate public assistance in locating an endangered missing person; and

(vii) facilitate training for law enforcement authorities related to missing persons cases including resources available to assist with missing persons investigations.

(b) The missing persons specialist shall complete cultural competency training.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Appropriation.** For each year of the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, there is appropriated \$100,000 from the general fund to the department of justice for missing persons response pursuant to [section 1]. The legislature intends that the appropriation be considered as part of the department's ongoing base budget for the 2021 legislative

session.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. {standard} Codification**

instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 44, chapter 2, part 4, and the provisions of Title 44, chapter 2, part 4, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. **Section 4. {standard} Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2019.

- END -

{Name : Hope E. Stockwell
Title : Research Analyst
Agency : LEPO
Phone : 444-9280
E-Mail : hstockwell@mt.gov}