

1 **** BILL NO. ****
2 INTRODUCED BY ****
3 BY REQUEST OF THE ****
4

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXTENDING TERMINATION OF THE MISSING INDIGENOUS
6 PERSONS TASK FORCE AND THE GRANT PROGRAM IT ADMINISTERS; AUTHORIZING THE TASK
7 FORCE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES; PROVIDING AN
8 APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 3, CHAPTER 243, LAWS OF 2021, SECTION 2, CHAPTER 268,
9 LAWS OF 2021, AND SECTION 8, CHAPTER 373, LAWS OF 2019; AMENDING SECTION 44-2-411, MCA;
10 PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

11
12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
13

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

15 **"44-2-411. (Temporary) Missing indigenous persons task force -- membership -- duties --**

16 **reporting.** (1) There is a missing indigenous persons task force. The task force is allocated to the department
17 of justice for staffing services and administrative purposes only.

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

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

21 (b) a representative from each federally recognized Indian tribe in Montana;

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) identify jurisdictional barriers between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and
27 community agencies;

28 (b) work to identify causes that contribute to missing and murdered indigenous persons and make

1 recommendations to federally recognized tribes in the state to reduce cases of missing and murdered
2 indigenous persons; and

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

5 (4) A vacancy on the task force must be filled in the manner of the original appointment.

6 (5) By July 1 prior to each regular legislative session, the task force shall, in accordance with 5-11-
7 210, prepare a written report of findings and recommendations for submission to the state-tribal relations
8 committee provided for in 5-5-229. The report must include the following information:

9 (a) the number of unique individuals reported to the missing and murdered indigenous persons
10 database;

11 (b) the number of unique individuals recovered as a result of the missing and murdered indigenous
12 persons database;

13 (c) the number of unique individuals recovered as a result of the looping in native communities
14 network grant program;

15 (d) the number of unique individuals searched for and recovered as a result of missing persons
16 response teams;

17 (e) the number of missing persons entries into the missing and murdered indigenous persons
18 database by year;

19 (f) an analysis by year of the characteristics of missing indigenous persons, including but not limited
20 to age, gender, child protective services involvement status, foster case status, duration of time missing, and
21 estimated related cause;

22 (g) the number of actively missing indigenous persons by year;

23 (h) a description and the results of any noncompetitive grant awardee activities;

24 (i) a description of the activities and progress related to improving interagency communication,
25 cooperation, and collaboration and removing interjurisdictional barriers; and

26 (j) any other information the task force members find relevant to the task force's mission.

27 (6) In addition to the recommendations required under subsection (5)(a), the task force may make
28 recommendations to other federal, state, and local agencies in carrying out the task force's duties. (Terminates

1 June 30, ~~2023 2025~~--sec. 3, Ch. 243, L. 2021, sec. 2, Ch. 268, L.2021.)"

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3 **Section 2.** Section 3, Chapter 243, Laws of 2021, is amended to read:

4 **"Section 3. Section 8, Chapter 373, Laws of 2019, is amended to read:**

5 **"Section 8. Termination. [This act] terminates June 30, 2021 2023 2025."**

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7 **Section 4.** Section 2, Chapter 268, Laws of 2021, is amended to read:

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

9 "Section 8. Termination. [This act] terminates (1) [Section 1] terminates June 30, 2023 2025.

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

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12 **Section 3.** Section 8, Chapter 373, Laws of 2019, is amended to read:

13 **"Section 8. Termination. [This act] terminates June 30, 2021 2023 2025."**

14

15 NEW SECTION. ~~Section 5.~~~~Section 4.~~ **Transfer of funds.** By July 15, 2023, the state treasurer shall
16 transfer \$50,000 from the state general fund to the looping in native communities network state special revenue
17 account established in 44-2-413.

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19 NEW SECTION. ~~Section 6.~~~~Section 5.~~ **Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$50,000 from the
20 looping in native communities network state special revenue account established in 44-2-413 to the missing
21 indigenous persons task force established in 44-2-411 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, for the
22 purposes of providing matching funds to tribal agencies to implement the looping in native communities network
23 grant program established in 44-2-412. Any funds that are unencumbered by June 30, 2025, must revert to the
24 general fund.

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26 NEW SECTION. ~~Section 7.~~~~Section 6.~~ **{standard} Notification to tribal governments.** The
27 secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

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