

**MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND
GIRLS TASK FORCE**

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Angela Romero

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

LONG TITLE

Committee Note:

The Native American Legislative Liaison Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 10 voting for 0 voting against 1 absent

The Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force recommended this bill.

Membership: 2 legislators 7 non-legislators

Total Vote: 9 voting for 0 voting against 0 absent

Legislative Vote: 2 voting for 0 voting against 0 absent

The Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 15 voting for 0 voting against 1 absent

General Description:

This bill creates the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force (task force).

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates the task force, addressing:
 - membership;
 - quorum requirements; and
 - compensation for task force members;



28 ▶ requires the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to staff the task
29 force; and

30 ▶ specifies duties of the task force.

31 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

32 This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2022:

33 ▶ to the Legislature - Senate as an appropriation:

- 34 • from the General Fund, \$3,200;

35 ▶ to the Legislature - House of Representatives as an appropriation:

- 36 • from the General Fund, \$3,200;

37 ▶ to the Legislature - Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel as an
38 appropriation:

- 39 • from the General Fund, \$2,800.

40 **Other Special Clauses:**

41 This bill provides a special effective date.

42 This bill provides a repeal date.

43 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

44 ENACTS:

45 **36-29-107.5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



47 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

48 Section 1. Section **36-29-107.5** is enacted to read:

49 **36-29-107.5. Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force --**

50 **Creation -- Membership --Quorum -- Compensation -- Staff -- Vacancies -- Duties --**

51 **Interim report.**

52 (1) As used in this section, "task force" means the Murdered and Missing Indigenous
53 Women and Girls Task Force created in Subsection (2).

54 (2) There is created the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task
55 Force consisting of the following nine members:

56 (a) one member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate;

57 (b) one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House
58 of Representatives;

59 (c) the following three members, appointed jointly by the president of the Senate and
60 the speaker of the House of Representatives:

61 (i) a member of a nonprofit organization primarily serving Utah's Native American
62 community;

63 (ii) a representative of a Utah Native American tribe; and

64 (iii) a representative of a victim advocate organization serving Utah's Native American
65 population;

66 (d) the director of the Division of Indian Affairs, or the director's designee;

67 (e) the executive director of the Department of Human Services, or the executive
68 director's designee;

69 (f) the attorney general, or the attorney general's designee; and

70 (g) the commissioner of public safety for the Department of Public Safety, or the
71 commissioner's designee.

72 (3) A vacancy in a position appointed under Subsection (2)(a), (b), or (c) shall be filled
73 by appointing a replacement member in the same manner as the member creating the vacancy
74 was appointed under Subsection (2)(a), (b), or (c).

75 (4) (a) The member of the Senate appointed under Subsection (2)(a) is a cochair of the
76 task force.

77 (b) The member of the House of Representatives appointed under Subsection (2)(b) is
78 a cochair of the task force.

79 (5) (a) A quorum consists of five members.

80 (b) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes an action of the task force.

81 (6) (a) Salaries and expenses of the members of the task force who are legislators shall
82 be paid in accordance with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Chapter 3,
83 Legislator Compensation.

84 (b) A member of the task force who is not a legislator:

85 (i) may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service associated with
86 the task force; and

87 (ii) may receive per diem and travel expenses incurred as a member of the task force at
88 the rates the Division of Finance establishes in accordance with:

89 (A) Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107; and

90 (B) rules the Division of Finance makes in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
91 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to carry out the provisions of Sections [63A-3-106](#) and
92 [63A-3-107](#).

93 (7) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support
94 to the task force.

95 (8) The task force shall:

96 (a) conduct appropriate consultations with tribal governments on the scope and nature
97 of the issues regarding murdered and missing indigenous women and girls;

98 (b) develop model protocols and procedures to apply to new and unsolved cases of
99 murdered or missing indigenous women and girls, including the best practices for:

100 (i) improving the way law enforcement investigators and prosecutors respond to the
101 high volume of the cases, and to the investigative challenges that might be presented in cases
102 involving female victims;

103 (ii) collecting and sharing data among various jurisdictions and law enforcement
104 agencies; and

105 (iii) better use of existing criminal databases;

106 (c) seek input from multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional persons, including
107 representatives from tribal law enforcement and federal agencies, about how to review cold
108 cases involving murdered and missing indigenous women and girls; and

109 (d) address the need for greater clarity concerning roles, authorities, and jurisdiction
110 throughout the lifecycle of cases involving murdered and missing indigenous women and girls
111 by discussing:

112 (i) best practices in cases involving murdered and missing indigenous women and girls,
113 including best practices related to communication with affected families from initiation of an
114 investigation through case resolution or closure; and

115 (ii) education and outreach campaigns for communities that are most affected by crime
116 resulting in murdered and missing indigenous women and girls to identify and reduce the
117 crime.

118 (9) (a) On or before November 30, 2023, the task force shall provide a report to the
119 Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee.

120 (b) The report described in Subsection (9)(a) shall include a summary of the task

121 force's findings under Subsection (8) and recommendations for improvements in the criminal
122 justice and social service systems for preventing and addressing crimes involving murdered and
123 missing indigenous women and girls in the state.

124 Section 2. **Appropriation.**

125 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
126 2021, and ending June 30, 2022. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
127 fiscal year 2022. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures
128 Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts
129 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

130 ITEM 1

131 To Legislature - Senate

132 From General Fund \$3,200

133 Schedule of Programs:

134 Administration \$3,200

135 ITEM 2

136 To Legislature - House of Representatives

137 From General Fund \$3,200

138 Schedule of Programs:

139 Administration \$3,200

140 ITEM 3

141 To Legislature - Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

142 From General Fund \$2,800

143 Schedule of Programs:

144 Administration \$2,800

145 The Legislature intends that an appropriation provided under these items be used for
146 expenses relating to the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force as
147 described in Section [36-29-107.5](#).

148 Section 3. **Effective date.**

149 If approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, this bill takes effect
150 upon approval by the governor, or the day following the constitutional time limit of Utah
151 Constitution, Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's signature, or in the case of a veto,

152 the date of veto override.

153 Section 4. **Repeal date.**

154 Section [36-29-107.5](#) is repealed on November 30, 2023.