

SENATE BILL NO. 151

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS OLSON, Gray-Jackson, Dunbar, Bishop, Claman, Hoffman, Stedman, Tobin, Myers, Kawasaki, Wielechowski, Kiehl, Stevens

Introduced: 5/13/23

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Review**
2 **Commission; relating to missing and murdered indigenous persons; relating to the**
3 **duties of the Department of Public Safety; and providing for an effective date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 44.41 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 **Sec. 44.41.023. Investigators for missing and murdered indigenous**
7 **persons.** The Department of Public Safety shall employ at least two persons in the
8 department to investigate cases involving missing and murdered indigenous persons
9 and act as liaisons between law enforcement agencies, communities in the state, and
10 federally recognized tribes.

11 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
12 read:

13 **MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS REVIEW COMMISSION.**

14 (a) The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Review Commission is established in the

1 Department of Public Safety.

2 (b) The commission consists of nine members, including

3 (1) the commissioner of public safety, or the commissioner's designee;

4 (2) the commissioner of family and community services, or the
5 commissioner's designee;

6 (3) one member from a municipal police department, appointed by the
7 governor;

8 (4) one member who is a village public safety officer, village public officer, or
9 tribal police officer, appointed by the governor;

10 (5) one member from a victim advocacy organization or similar service
11 provider, appointed by the governor;

12 (6) one member from an Alaska Native tribal organization or entity, appointed
13 by the governor;

14 (7) two members from the legislature, serving as ex officio nonvoting
15 members, one of whom shall be appointed by the president of the senate and one of whom
16 shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

17 (8) one member who is a prosecutor with prosecutorial experience in homicide
18 cases, appointed by the attorney general.

19 (c) Vacancies on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as original
20 appointment.

21 (d) The commissioner of public safety or the commissioner's designee is the chair of
22 the commission.

23 (e) Members of the commission receive no compensation but are entitled to per diem
24 and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

25 (f) The commission shall review unresolved cases involving missing and murdered
26 indigenous persons from different state regions that are identified by the Department of Public
27 Safety to

28 (1) examine the trends and patterns related to missing and murdered
29 indigenous persons; and

30 (2) make policy, practice, and service recommendations to encourage
31 collaboration and reduce cases involving indigenous persons.

1 (g) The commission shall prepare a report of its findings and recommendations. Not
2 later than January 1, 2026, the commission shall submit the report to the senate secretary and
3 chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the report is
4 available. The commission shall make the report publicly available through the Department of
5 Public Safety.

6 (h) A person attending a meeting of the commission or a member or staff of the
7 commission may not disclose information obtained during the review of a case by the
8 commission.

9 (i) Documents, materials, and reports obtained or compiled by the commission or a
10 designated representative of the commission in the course of reviewing a case involving a
11 missing or murdered indigenous person under this section are confidential and are not public
12 records under AS 40.25.110 - 40.25.125 or admissible in a criminal or civil proceeding. A
13 person may not be compelled to disclose information relating to the documents, materials, and
14 reports through subpoena, discovery, or testimony in a criminal or civil proceeding.

15 (j) A member of the commission who knowingly uses documents, materials, reports,
16 or information for a purpose not authorized under (f) or (g) of this section or discloses
17 information in violation of this section is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for
18 each instance of unauthorized use or disclosure.

19 (k) Meetings of the commission are closed to the public and not subject to the
20 provisions of AS 44.62.310 - 44.62.319 (Open Meetings Act). Meetings shall take place not
21 less than four times each calendar year, at least one of which shall take place in person.

22 (l) The Department of Public Safety shall confer with the commission to establish
23 standardized methods for investigating missing person reports, including for investigating
24 missing persons reports and data collection for cases involving missing indigenous persons.

25 (m) In this section, "commission" means the Missing and Murdered Indigenous
26 Persons Review Commission.

27 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
28 read:

29 REPORT ON INVESTIGATIVE RESOURCES. The Department of Public Safety
30 shall conduct a needs assessment to determine how to increase protective and investigative
31 resources for identifying and reporting cases of missing and murdered indigenous persons

1 within the state criminal justice system. The department shall work with the governor's office
2 to convene meetings with tribal and local law enforcement agencies, federally recognized
3 tribes, and Alaska Native organizations to determine the scope of the issue, identify barriers,
4 and determine methods for creating partnerships to increase reporting and investigation of
5 cases involving missing and murdered indigenous persons. The department shall conduct its
6 work with tribal entities based on the state's government-to-government relationship with
7 federally recognized tribes in the state. The department shall also work with federal law
8 enforcement agencies to identify ways to increase information sharing and coordinate
9 resources. Not later than January 1, 2025, the department shall submit a written report on the
10 needs assessment to the senate secretary and chief clerk of the house of representatives and
11 notify the legislature that the report is available.

12 * **Sec. 4.** Section 3 of this Act is repealed January 1, 2025.

13 * **Sec. 5.** Section 2 of this Act is repealed January 1, 2026.

14 * **Sec. 6.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2024.