

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 151(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/15/24

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS OLSON, Gray-Jackson, Dunbar, Bishop, Claman, Hoffman, Stedman, Tobin, Myers, Kawasaki, Wielechowski, Kiehl, Stevens

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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

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

6 * **Section 1.** AS 18.65.240(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) A person may not be appointed as a police officer, except on a
8 probationary basis, unless the person (1) has satisfactorily completed a basic program
9 of police training approved by the council, which includes at least 12 hours of
10 instruction regarding domestic violence and at least 12 hours of instruction regarding
11 sexual assault, as those terms are defined in AS 18.66.990, [AND] (2) possesses other
12 qualifications the council has established for the employment of police officers,
13 including minimum age, education, physical and mental standards, citizenship, moral
14 character, and experience, **and (3) has completed cultural training supervised by**

1 **an indigenous coordinator or indigenous entity in the state that is related to**
 2 **addressing the rates of missing and murdered indigenous persons.** The council
 3 shall prescribe the means of presenting evidence of fulfillment of these requirements.

4 * **Sec. 2.** AS 44.41.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (k) The Department of Public Safety may submit names and information
 6 relating to missing persons to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System
 7 database.

8 * **Sec. 3.** AS 44.41 is amended by adding a new section to read:

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

14 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
 15 read:

16 MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS REVIEW COMMISSION.

17 (a) The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Review Commission is established in the
 18 Department of Public Safety.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (7) two members from the legislature, serving as ex officio nonvoting

1 members, one of whom shall be appointed by the president of the senate and one of whom
2 shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

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

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

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

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

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

14 (1) examine the trends and patterns related to missing and murdered
15 indigenous persons; and

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

18 (g) The commission shall prepare a report of its findings and recommendations. Not
19 later than January 1, 2027, the commission shall submit the report to the senate secretary and
20 chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the report is
21 available. The commission shall make the report publicly available through the Department of
22 Public Safety.

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

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

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

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

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

11 (m) The Department of Public Safety may collaborate with the commission for public
12 outreach purposes.

13 (n) In this section, "commission" means the Missing and Murdered Indigenous
14 Persons Review Commission.

15 * **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
16 read:

17 **REPORT ON INVESTIGATIVE RESOURCES.** The Department of Public Safety
18 shall conduct a needs assessment to determine how to increase protective and investigative
19 resources for identifying and reporting cases of missing and murdered indigenous persons
20 within the state criminal justice system. The department shall work with the governor's office
21 to convene meetings with tribal and local law enforcement agencies, federally recognized
22 tribes, and Alaska Native organizations to determine the scope of the issue, identify barriers,
23 and determine methods for creating partnerships to increase reporting and investigation of
24 cases involving missing and murdered indigenous persons. The department shall conduct its
25 work with tribal entities based on the state's government-to-government relationship with
26 federally recognized tribes in the state. The department shall also work with federal law
27 enforcement agencies to identify ways to increase information sharing and coordinate
28 resources. Not later than January 1, 2026, the department shall submit a written report on the
29 needs assessment to the senate secretary and chief clerk of the house of representatives and
30 notify the legislature that the report is available.

31 * **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to

1 read:

2 TRANSITION: TRAINING. Notwithstanding the requirements of AS 18.65.240(a), as
3 amended by sec. 1 of this Act, a person holding a certificate issued under AS 18.65.240 on or
4 before the effective date of sec. 1 of this Act has two years from the effective date of sec. 1 of
5 this Act to comply with the requirements of AS 18.65.240(a), as amended by sec. 1 of this
6 Act.

7 * **Sec. 7.** Section 5 of this Act is repealed January 1, 2026.

8 * **Sec. 8.** Section 4 of this Act is repealed January 1, 2027.

9 * **Sec. 9.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2025.