

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8960

To require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Mr. GALLEGO (for himself, Mr. COLE, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Energy and Commerce, and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Bridging Agency Data Gaps and Ensuring Safety for
6 Native Communities Act” or the “BADGES for Native
7 Communities Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 2 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—BRIDGING AGENCY DATA GAPS

Sec. 101. National Missing and Unidentified Persons System Tribal facilitator.
 Sec. 102. Report on Indian country law enforcement personnel resources and
 need.

TITLE II—ENSURING SAFETY FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Sec. 201. Demonstration program on Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement
 employment background checks.
 Sec. 202. Missing and murdered response coordination grant program.
 Sec. 203. GAO study on Federal law enforcement agency evidence collection,
 handling, and processing.
 Sec. 204. Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribal law enforcement officer coun-
 seling resources interdepartmental coordination.

3 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) DEATH INVESTIGATION.—The term “death
 6 investigation” has the meaning determined by the
 7 Attorney General.

8 (2) DEATH INVESTIGATION OF INTEREST TO
 9 INDIAN TRIBES.—The term “death investigation of
 10 interest to Indian Tribes” means a case involving—

11 (A) a death investigation into the death of
 12 an Indian; or

13 (B) a death investigation of a person found
 14 on, in, or adjacent to Indian land or a Village.

15 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
 16 the Director of the Office of Justice Services.

1 (4) FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—
2 The term “Federal law enforcement agency” means
3 the Bureau of Indian Affairs direct-service police,
4 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and any other
5 Federal law enforcement agency that—

6 (A) has jurisdiction over crimes in Indian
7 country; or

8 (B) investigates missing persons cases of
9 interest to Indian Tribes, death investigations
10 of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed remains
11 cases of interest to Indian Tribes, or unidenti-
12 fied remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes.

13 (5) INDIAN.—The term “Indian” has the mean-
14 ing given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-
15 Determination and Education Assistance Act (25
16 U.S.C. 5304).

17 (6) INDIAN COUNTRY.—The term “Indian coun-
18 try” has the meaning given the term in section 1151
19 of title 18, United States Code.

20 (7) INDIAN LAND.—The term “Indian land”
21 has the meaning given the term “Indian lands” in
22 section 3 of the Native American Business Develop-
23 ment, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000
24 (25 U.S.C. 4302).

1 (8) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
2 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
3 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
4 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

5 (9) MISSING.—The term “missing” has the
6 meaning determined by the Attorney General.

7 (10) MISSING PERSONS CASE OF INTEREST TO
8 INDIAN TRIBES.—The term “missing persons case of
9 interest to Indian Tribes” means a case involving—

10 (A) a missing Indian; or

11 (B) a missing person whose last known lo-
12 cation is believed to be on, in, or adjacent to In-
13 dian land or a Village.

14 (11) NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION DATA-
15 BASES.—The term “national crime information
16 databases” has the meaning given the term in sec-
17 tion 534(f)(3) of title 28, United States Code.

18 (12) RELEVANT TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The
19 term “relevant Tribal organization” means, as appli-
20 cable—

21 (A) a tribal organization or an urban In-
22 dian organization; and

23 (B) a national or regional organization
24 that—

1 (i) represents a substantial Indian
2 constituency; and

3 (ii) has expertise in the fields of—

4 (I) human trafficking of Indians;

5 (II) human trafficking on Indian
6 land or in a Village;

7 (III) violence against Indian
8 women and children; or

9 (IV) tribal justice systems.

10 (13) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
11 means the Secretary of the Interior.

12 (14) SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE OF INTEREST TO
13 INDIAN TRIBES.—The term “sexual assault case of
14 interest to Indian Tribes” means a case involving an
15 allegation of a felony under chapter 109A or 110 of
16 title 18, United States Code, committed against an
17 Indian by another Indian or a non-Indian.

18 (15) TRIBAL JUSTICE OFFICIAL.—The term
19 “tribal justice official” has the meaning given the
20 term in section 2 of the Indian Law Enforcement
21 Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 2801).

22 (16) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “tribal
23 organization” has the meaning given the term in
24 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
25 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

1 (17) UNCLAIMED REMAINS CASE OF INTEREST
2 TO INDIAN TRIBES.—The term “unclaimed remains
3 case of interest to Indian Tribes” means a case in-
4 volving—

5 (A) unclaimed Indian remains; or

6 (B) unclaimed remains found on, in, or ad-
7 jacent to Indian land or a Village.

8 (18) UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS CASE OF INTER-
9 EST TO INDIAN TRIBES.—The term “unidentified re-
10 mains case of interest to Indian Tribes” means a
11 case involving—

12 (A) unidentified Indian remains; or

13 (B) unidentified remains found on, in, or
14 adjacent to Indian land or a Village.

15 (19) URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term
16 “urban Indian organization” has the meaning given
17 the term in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Im-
18 provement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

19 (20) VILLAGE.—The term “Village” means the
20 Alaska Native Village Statistical Area covering all or
21 any portion of a Native village (as defined in section
22 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43
23 U.S.C. 1602)), as depicted on the applicable Tribal
24 Statistical Area Program Verification Map of the
25 Bureau of the Census.

1 **TITLE I—BRIDGING AGENCY**
2 **DATA GAPS**

3 **SEC. 101. NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS**
4 **SYSTEM TRIBAL FACILITATOR.**

5 (a) APPOINTMENT.—The Attorney General, acting
6 through the Director of the National Institute of Justice,
7 shall appoint 1 or more Tribal facilitators for the National
8 Missing and Unidentified Persons System.

9 (b) DUTIES.—The duties of a Tribal facilitator ap-
10 pointed under subsection (a) shall include—

11 (1) coordinating the reporting of information
12 relating to missing persons cases of interest to In-
13 dian Tribes, unclaimed remains cases of interest to
14 Indian Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of in-
15 terest to Indian Tribes;

16 (2) consulting and coordinating with Indian
17 Tribes and relevant Tribal organizations to address
18 the reporting, documentation, and tracking of miss-
19 ing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, un-
20 claimed remains cases of Interest to Indian Tribes,
21 and unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian
22 Tribes;

23 (3) developing working relationships, and main-
24 taining communication, with Indian Tribes and rel-
25 evant Tribal organizations;

1 (4) providing technical assistance and training
2 to Indian Tribes and relevant Tribal organizations,
3 victim service advocates, medical examiners, coro-
4 ners, and tribal justice officials regarding—

5 (A) the gathering and reporting of infor-
6 mation to the National Missing and Unidenti-
7 fied Persons System; and

8 (B) working with non-Tribal law enforce-
9 ment agencies to ensure missing persons cases
10 of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed remains
11 cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and unidenti-
12 fied remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes
13 are reported to the National Missing and Un-
14 identified Persons System;

15 (5) coordinating with the Office of Tribal Jus-
16 tice, the Office of Justice Services, the Executive Of-
17 fice for United States Attorneys, and the National
18 Indian Country Training Initiative, as necessary;
19 and

20 (6) conducting other training, information gath-
21 ering, and outreach activities to improve resolution
22 of missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes,
23 unclaimed remains cases of interest to Indian
24 Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of interest to
25 Indian Tribes.

1 (c) REPORTING AND TRANSPARENCY.—

2 (1) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—During
3 the 3-year-period beginning on the date of enact-
4 ment of this Act, the Attorney General, acting
5 through the Director of the National Institute of
6 Justice, shall submit to the Committees on Indian
7 Affairs, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the
8 Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources,
9 the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the House of
10 Representatives an annual report—

11 (A) describing the activities and accom-
12 plishments of the 1 or more Tribal facilitators
13 appointed under subsection (a) during the 1-
14 year period preceding the date of the report;
15 and

16 (B) summarizing—

17 (i) the number of missing persons
18 cases of interest to Indian Tribes, un-
19 claimed remains cases of interest to Indian
20 Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of
21 interest to Indian Tribes that the Tribal
22 facilitator can identify in the National
23 Missing and Unidentified Persons System;
24 and

1 (ii) the percentage of missing persons
2 cases of interest to Indian Tribes, un-
3 claimed remains cases of interest to Indian
4 Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of
5 interest to Indian Tribes closed during the
6 1-year period preceding the date of the re-
7 port that the Tribal facilitator can identify
8 in the National Missing and Unidentified
9 Persons System.

10 (2) PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY.—Annually, the At-
11 torney General, acting through the Director of the
12 National Institute of Justice, shall publish on a
13 website publicly accessible information—

14 (A) describing the activities and accom-
15 plishments of the 1 or more Tribal facilitators
16 appointed under subsection (a) during the 1-
17 year period preceding the date of the publica-
18 tion; and

19 (B) summarizing—

20 (i) the number of missing persons
21 cases of interest to Indian Tribes, un-
22 claimed remains cases of interest to Indian
23 Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of
24 interest to Indian Tribes that the Tribal
25 facilitator can identify in the National

1 Missing and Unidentified Persons System;
2 and

3 (ii) the percentage of missing persons
4 cases of interest to Indian Tribes, un-
5 claimed remains cases of interest to Indian
6 Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of
7 interest to Indian Tribes closed during the
8 1-year period preceding the date of the re-
9 port that the Tribal facilitator can identify
10 in the National Missing and Unidentified
11 Persons System.

12 **SEC. 102. REPORT ON INDIAN COUNTRY LAW ENFORCE-**
13 **MENT PERSONNEL RESOURCES AND NEED.**

14 (a) DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OFFICE OF JUSTICE SERVICES.—Section 3(c)(16) of the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 2802(c)(16)) is amended by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

19 “(C) a list of the unmet—

20 “(i) staffing needs of law enforcement,
21 corrections, and court personnel, including
22 criminal investigators, medical examiners,
23 coroners, forensic technicians, indigent de-
24 fense staff, and prosecution staff, at tribal

1 and Bureau of Indian Affairs justice agen-
2 cies;

3 “(ii) replacement and repair needs of
4 tribal and Bureau of Indian Affairs correc-
5 tions facilities;

6 “(iii) infrastructure and capital needs
7 for tribal police and court facilities, includ-
8 ing evidence storage and processing; and

9 “(iv) public safety and emergency
10 communications and technology needs;
11 and”.

12 (b) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—

13 (1) DEFINITION OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
14 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—In this subsection,
15 the term “Department of Justice law enforcement
16 agency” means each of—

- 17 (A) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
18 (B) the Drug Enforcement Administration;
19 (C) the United States Marshals Service;
20 (D) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire-
21 arms and Explosives; and
22 (E) the Offices of the United States Attor-
23 neys.

24 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each fiscal year, the
25 Attorney General shall submit to the Committees on

1 Indian Affairs, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of
2 the Senate and the Committees on Natural Re-
3 sources, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the
4 House of Representatives a report describing for
5 that fiscal year—

6 (A) the number of full-time employees of
7 each Department of Justice law enforcement
8 agency that are assigned to work on criminal
9 investigations and prosecutions in Indian coun-
10 try; and

11 (B) the percentage of time the full-employ-
12 ees spend specifically working in Indian coun-
13 try.

14 (3) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

15 (A) STUDY.—

16 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18
17 months after the date on which the first
18 annual report is submitted under para-
19 graph (2), the Comptroller General of the
20 United States shall conduct a study that
21 examines any identified unmet staffing
22 needs for Department of Justice law en-
23 forcement agencies tasked with work on
24 criminal investigations and prosecutions in
25 Indian country.

1 (ii) REQUIREMENT.—In conducting
2 the study required under clause (i), the
3 Comptroller General of the United States
4 shall take into account the results of the
5 most recent report, as of the date of enact-
6 ment of this Act, relating to Indian coun-
7 try investigations and prosecutions pre-
8 pared by the Attorney General pursuant to
9 section 10(b) of the Indian Law Enforce-
10 ment Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 2809(b)).

11 (B) REPORT.—On completion of the study
12 under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller Gen-
13 eral of the United States shall submit to the
14 Committees on Indian Affairs, the Judiciary,
15 and Appropriations of the Senate and the Com-
16 mittees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary,
17 and Appropriations of the House of Representa-
18 tives a report that describes the results of the
19 study, including, as appropriate, proposals for
20 methods by which the Department of Justice
21 can better measure the unmet staffing needs for
22 Department of Justice law enforcement agen-
23 cies tasked with work on criminal investigations
24 and prosecutions in Indian country.

1 **TITLE II—ENSURING SAFETY**
2 **FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES**

3 **SEC. 201. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON BUREAU OF IN-**
4 **DIAN AFFAIRS LAW ENFORCEMENT EMPLOY-**
5 **MENT BACKGROUND CHECKS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
8 a demonstration program for the purpose of con-
9 ducting or adjudicating, in coordination with the Di-
10 rector of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, personnel
11 background investigations for applicants for law en-
12 forcement positions in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

13 (2) BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS AND SECUR-
14 ITY CLEARANCE DETERMINATIONS.—

15 (A) BIA INVESTIGATIONS.—As part of the
16 demonstration program established under para-
17 graph (1), the Secretary may carry out a back-
18 ground investigation, security clearance deter-
19 mination, or both a background investigation
20 and a security clearance determination for an
21 applicant for a law enforcement position in the
22 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

23 (B) USE OF PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS
24 AND DETERMINATIONS.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
2 (ii), as part of the demonstration program
3 established under paragraph (1), the Sec-
4 retary, in adjudicating background inves-
5 tigations for applicants for law enforce-
6 ment positions in the Bureau of Indian Af-
7 fairs, shall consider previous background
8 investigations for an applicant, security
9 clearance determinations for an applicant,
10 or both background investigations and se-
11 curity clearance determinations for an ap-
12 plicant, as the case may be, that have been
13 conducted by a State or local government,
14 Indian Tribe, tribal organization, or the
15 Bureau of Indian Affairs, within the 5-year
16 period preceding the application for em-
17 ployment with the Bureau of Indian Af-
18 fairs.

19 (ii) QUALITY.—The Secretary shall
20 only consider previous background inves-
21 tigations and security clearance determina-
22 tions for an applicant that have been con-
23 ducted by a State or local government, In-
24 dian Tribe, or tribal organization if the
25 Secretary can verify that those previous in-

1 vestigations and determinations, as the
2 case may be, are of a comparable quality
3 and thoroughness to investigations and de-
4 terminations carried out by the Bureau of
5 Indian Affairs, the Office of Personnel
6 Management, or another Federal agency.

7 (iii) ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION.—If,
8 as described in clause (i), the Secretary
9 considers an existing background investiga-
10 tion, security clearance determination, or
11 both, as the case may be, for an applicant
12 that has been carried out by a State or
13 local government, Indian Tribe, tribal or-
14 ganization, or the Bureau of Indian Af-
15 fairs, the Secretary—

16 (I) may carry out additional in-
17 vestigation and examination of the ap-
18 plicant if the Secretary determines
19 that such additional information is
20 needed in order to make an appro-
21 priate determination as to the char-
22 acter and trustworthiness of the appli-
23 cant before final adjudication can be
24 made and a security clearance can be
25 issued; and

1 (II) shall not initiate a new back-
2 ground investigation process with the
3 National Background Investigations
4 Bureau or other Federal agency un-
5 less that new background investiga-
6 tion process covers a period of time
7 that was not covered by a previous
8 background investigation process.

9 (iv) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
10 may enter into a Memorandum of Agree-
11 ment with a State or local government, In-
12 dian Tribe, or tribal organization to de-
13 velop steps to expedite the process of re-
14 ceiving and obtaining access to background
15 investigation and security clearance deter-
16 minations for use in the demonstration
17 program.

18 (3) SUNSET.—The demonstration program es-
19 tablished under this section shall terminate 5 years
20 after the date of the commencement of the program.

21 (b) SUFFICIENCY.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
22 sion of law, a background investigation conducted or adju-
23 dicated by the Secretary pursuant to the demonstration
24 program authorized in subsection (a) that results in the
25 granting of a security clearance to an applicant for a law

1 enforcement position in the Bureau of Indian Affairs shall
2 be sufficient to meet the applicable requirements of the
3 Office of Personnel Management or other Federal agency
4 for such investigations.

5 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to
6 the Committees on Indian Affairs, the Judiciary, and Ap-
7 propriations of the Senate and the Committees on Natural
8 Resources, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the House
9 of Representatives an annual report on the demonstration
10 program established under subsection (a), which shall in-
11 clude a description of—

12 (1) the demonstration program and any rel-
13 evant annual changes or updates to the program;

14 (2) the number of background investigations
15 carried out under the program;

16 (3) the costs, including any cost savings, associ-
17 ated with the investigation and adjudication process
18 under the program;

19 (4) the processing times for the investigation
20 and adjudication processes under the program;

21 (5) any Memoranda of Agreement entered into
22 with State or local government, Indian Tribe, or
23 tribal organization; and

24 (6) any other information that the Secretary
25 determines to be relevant.

1 (d) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

2 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 18
3 months after the date on which the demonstration
4 program commences under this section, the Comp-
5 troller General of the United States shall prepare
6 and submit to Congress an initial report on such
7 demonstration program.

8 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
9 after the date on which the demonstration program
10 terminates under subsection (a)(3), the Comptroller
11 General of the United States shall prepare and sub-
12 mit to Congress a final report on such demonstra-
13 tion program.

14 (3) TRIBAL INPUT.—In preparing the reports
15 under this subsection, the Comptroller General of
16 the United States shall obtain input from Indian
17 Tribes regarding the demonstration program under
18 this section.

19 **SEC. 202. MISSING AND MURDERED RESPONSE COORDINA-**
20 **TION GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Attorney
22 General shall establish within the Office of Justice Pro-
23 grams a grant program under which the Attorney General
24 shall make grants to eligible entities described in sub-

1 section (b) to carry out eligible activities described in sub-
2 section (c).

3 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
5 grant under the grant program established under
6 subsection (a) an entity shall be—

7 (A) an Indian Tribe;

8 (B) a relevant Tribal organization;

9 (C) subject to paragraph (2), a State, in
10 consortium with—

11 (i) 1 or more Indian Tribes; and

12 (ii) relevant Tribal organizations, if
13 any;

14 (D) a consortium of 2 or more Indian
15 Tribes or relevant Tribal organizations; or

16 (E) subject to paragraph (2), a consortium
17 of 2 or more States in consortium with—

18 (i) 1 or more Indian Tribes; and

19 (ii) relevant Tribal organizations, if
20 any.

21 (2) STATE ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible under
22 subparagraph (C) or (E) of paragraph (1), a State
23 shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Attorney
24 General that the State—

1 (A)(i) reports missing persons cases in the
2 State to the national crime information data-
3 bases; or

4 (ii) if not, has a plan to do so using a
5 grant received under the grant program estab-
6 lished under subsection (a); and

7 (B) if data sharing between the State and
8 the Indian Tribes and relevant Tribal organiza-
9 tions with which the State is in consortium is
10 part of the intended use of the grant received
11 under the grant program established under sub-
12 section (a), has entered into a memorandum of
13 understanding with each applicable Indian
14 Tribe and relevant Tribal organization.

15 (c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity receiv-
16 ing a grant under the grant program established under
17 subsection (a) may use the grant—

18 (1) to establish a statewide or regional center—

19 (A) to document and track—

20 (i) missing persons cases of interest to
21 Indian Tribes;

22 (ii) sexual assault cases of interest to
23 Indian Tribes; and

24 (iii) death investigations of interest to
25 Indian Tribes; and

1 (B) to input information regarding missing
2 persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, un-
3 claimed remains cases of interest to Indian
4 Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of inter-
5 est to Indian Tribes into the National Missing
6 and Unidentified Persons System;

7 (2) to establish a State or regional commission
8 to respond to, and to improve coordination between
9 Federal law enforcement agencies, and Tribal, State,
10 and local law enforcement agencies of the investiga-
11 tion of, missing persons cases of interest to Indian
12 Tribes, sexual assault cases of interest to Indian
13 Tribes, and death investigations of interest to Indian
14 Tribes; and

15 (3) to document, develop, and disseminate re-
16 sources for the coordination and improvement of the
17 investigation of missing persons cases of interest to
18 Indian Tribes, sexual assault cases of interest to In-
19 dian Tribes, and death investigations of interest to
20 Indian Tribes, including to develop local or statewide
21 rapid notification or communication systems for
22 alerts and other information relating to those cases.

23 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
24 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the program
25 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.

1 **SEC. 203. GAO STUDY ON FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**
2 **AGENCY EVIDENCE COLLECTION, HANDLING,**
3 **AND PROCESSING.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
5 United States shall conduct a study—

6 (1) on the evidence collection, handling, and
7 processing procedures and practices of the Office of
8 Justice Services and the Federal Bureau of Inves-
9 tigation in exercising jurisdiction over crimes involv-
10 ing Indians or committed in Indian country;

11 (2) on any barriers to evidence collection, han-
12 dling, and processing by the agencies referred to in
13 paragraph (1);

14 (3) on the views of law enforcement officials at
15 the agencies referred to in paragraph (1) and their
16 counterparts within the Offices of the United States
17 Attorneys concerning any relationship between—

18 (A) the barriers identified under paragraph
19 (2); and

20 (B) United States Attorneys declination
21 rates due to insufficient evidence; and

22 (4) that includes a survey of barriers to evi-
23 dence collection, handling, and processing faced by—

24 (A) Tribal law enforcement agencies; and

1 (B) State and local law enforcement agen-
2 cies that exercise jurisdiction over Indian coun-
3 try.

4 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
6 of the United States shall submit to Congress a report
7 describing the results of the study conducted under sub-
8 section (a).

9 **SEC. 204. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND TRIBAL LAW**
10 **ENFORCEMENT OFFICER COUNSELING RE-**
11 **SOURCES INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINA-**
12 **TION.**

13 The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the
14 Attorney General shall coordinate with the Director—

15 (1) to ensure that Federal training materials
16 and culturally appropriate mental health and
17 wellness programs are locally or regionally available
18 to law enforcement officers working for the Bureau
19 of Indian Affairs or an Indian Tribe who are experi-
20 encing occupational stress; and

21 (2) to determine whether law enforcement agen-
22 cies operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and
23 Indian Tribes are eligible to receive services under—

1 (A) the Law Enforcement Assistance Pro-
2 gram of Federal Occupational Health of the
3 Department of Health and Human Services; or

4 (B) any other law enforcement assistance
5 program targeted to meet the needs of law en-
6 forcement officers working for law enforcement
7 agencies operated by the Federal Government
8 or an Indian Tribe.

○