

**Representative Angela Romero** proposes the following substitute bill:

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

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Angela Romero**

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

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**LONG TITLE**

**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;
- ▶ requires the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to staff the task force; and
- ▶ specifies duties of the task force.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates:

in fiscal year 2021:

- ▶ to the Legislature - Senate as a one-time appropriation:
  - from the General Fund, One-time, \$400;



- 26 ▶ to the Legislature - House of Representatives as a one-time appropriation:
- 27 • from the General Fund, One-time, \$400; and
- 28 ▶ to the Legislature - Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel as a
- 29 one-time appropriation:
- 30 • from the General Fund, One-time, \$300; and
- 31 in fiscal year 2022:
- 32 ▶ to the Legislature - Senate as an ongoing appropriation:
- 33 • from the General Fund, \$2,800;
- 34 ▶ to the Legislature - House of Representatives as an ongoing appropriation:
- 35 • from the General Fund, \$2,800; and
- 36 ▶ to the Legislature - Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel as an
- 37 ongoing appropriation:
- 38 • from the General Fund, \$2,500.

39 **Other Special Clauses:**

40 This bill provides a special effective date.

41 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

42 AMENDS:

43 **63I-2-236**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 389

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. Section **63I-2-236** is amended to read:

125 **63I-2-236. Repeal dates -- Title 36.**

126 [~~Section 36-29-105 is repealed on December 31, 2020.~~]

127 Section 36-29-107.5 is repealed on November 30, 2023.

128 Section 3. **Appropriation.**

129 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
130 2020, and ending June 30, 2021. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for  
131 fiscal year 2021. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures  
132 Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts  
133 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

134 ITEM 1

135 To Legislature - Senate

136 From General Fund, One-time \$400

137 Schedule of Programs:

138 Administration \$400

139 ITEM 2

140 To Legislature - House of Representatives

141 From General Fund, One-time \$400

142 Schedule of Programs:

143 Administration \$400

144 ITEM 3

145 To Legislature - Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

146 From General Fund, One-time \$300

147 Schedule of Programs:

148 Administration \$300

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150 2021, and ending June 30, 2022. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for  
 151 fiscal year 2022. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures  
 152 Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts  
 153 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

154 ITEM 1

155 To Legislature - Senate  
 156 From General Fund \$2,800  
 157 Schedule of Programs:  
 158 Administration \$2,800

159 ITEM 2

160 To Legislature - House of Representatives  
 161 From General Fund \$2,800  
 162 Schedule of Programs:  
 163 Administration \$2,800

164 ITEM 3

165 To Legislature - Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel  
 166 From General Fund \$2,500  
 167 Schedule of Programs:  
 168 Administration \$2,500

169 The Legislature intends that an appropriation provided under this section be used for  
 170 expenses relating to the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force as  
 171 described in Section [36-29-107.5](#).

172 **Section 4. Effective date.**

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