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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2951**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2018 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2018 Regular Session**

**By** House Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives McCabe, Gregerson, Stambaugh, Stanford, Walsh, Reeves, Dye, Barkis, Frame, Haler, Jinkins, Kloba, Ormsby, Valdez, and Peterson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/18.

1            AN ACT Relating to increasing services to report and investigate  
2 missing Native American women; creating new sections; and providing  
3 an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Native American  
6 women experience violence at much higher rates than other  
7 populations. A recent federal study reported that Native American  
8 women face murder rates over ten times the national average. However,  
9 many of these crimes often are unsolved and even unreported because  
10 there are also very high rates of disappearances among Native  
11 American women. Furthermore, there is no comprehensive data  
12 collection system for reporting or tracking missing Native American  
13 women. This gap in reporting and investigation places Native American  
14 women even more vulnerable to violence.

15            The legislature further finds that although violence against  
16 Native American women has been a neglected issue in society, there is  
17 a growing awareness of this crisis of violence against Native  
18 American women, and a recognition of the need for the criminal  
19 justice system to better serve and protect Native American women. The  
20 legislature intends to find ways to connect state, tribal, and

1 federal resources to create partnerships in finding ways to solve  
2 this crisis facing Native American women in our state.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state patrol must  
4 conduct a study to determine how to increase state criminal justice  
5 protective and investigative resources for reporting and identifying  
6 missing Native American women in the state. The state patrol must  
7 work with the governor's office of Indian affairs to convene meetings  
8 with tribal and local law enforcement partners, federally recognized  
9 tribes, and urban Indian organizations to determine the scope of the  
10 problem, identify barriers, and find ways to create partnerships to  
11 increase reporting and investigation of missing Native American  
12 women. Consultation and collaboration with federally recognized  
13 tribes must be conducted in respect for government-to-government  
14 relations. The state patrol also must work with the federal  
15 department of justice to increase information sharing and  
16 coordinating resources that can focus on reporting and investigating  
17 missing Native American women in the state.

18 (2) By June 1, 2019, the state patrol must report to the  
19 legislature on the results of the study, including data and analysis  
20 of the number of missing Native American women in the state,  
21 identification of barriers in providing state resources to address  
22 the issue, and recommendations, including any proposed legislation  
23 that may be needed to address the problem.

24 (3) This section expires December 31, 2019.

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