

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Second Year, 2020

AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'; SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 116, A BILL INTRODUCED IN THE UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE TO CREATE THE "MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS TASK FORCE"

WHEREAS:


- A. There exists a crisis in the United States concerning missing indigenous women and girls. In 2016, the Urban Indian Health Institute found that of the 5716 such missing cases, only 117 cases were inputted in the database maintained by the United States Department of Justice. See, "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, a report issued by the Urban Indian Health Institute, <http://www.uihi.org>. It is also reported, "generations of killings and disappearances have been disregarded by law enforcement and lost in bureaucratic gaps concerning which local or federal agencies should investigate." See, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/25/us/native-women-girls-missing.html>.
- B. The legislature of the state of Utah has introduced a bill to create a task force on "Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls." See **Exhibit A**. The Task Force would consult with tribal and federal governments on issues regarding missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, including developing procedures for addressing new and unsolved cases.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Navajo Nation hereby supports the legislature of the state of Utah in its proposed bill to create a task force on "Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls," House Bill 116.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 19 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 14th day of May 2020.


Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

5.19.2020

Date

Motion: Honorable Raymond Smith, Jr.

Second: Honorable Eugene Tso

Chairman Seth Damon not voting



**MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS,
AND LGBTQ+ TASK FORCE**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Angela Romero

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, and LGBTQ+ Task Force.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates 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, \$20,000;
- ▶ to the Legislature - House of Representatives as a one-time appropriation:
 - from the General Fund, \$20,000.

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a repeal date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

36-29-107, Utah Code Annotated 1953



Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **36-29-107** is enacted to read:

36-29-107. Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, and LGBTQ+ Task Force – Creation – Membership – Quorum – Compensation – Staff – Vacancies – Duties – Interim Report.

(1) As used in this section, "task force" means the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, and LGBTQ+ Task Force created in Subsection (2).

(2) There is created a Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, and LGBTQ+ Task Force consisting of the following 15 members:

(a) three members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate, no more than two of whom may be from the same political party;

(b) three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, no more than two of whom may be from the same political party;

(c) the following eight members, appointed jointly by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives:

(i) a member of a nonprofit organization primarily serving Utah's Native American community;

(ii) a representative of a Utah Native American tribe;

(iii) a representative of a victim advocate organization serving Utah's Native American population;

(iv) A Utah Native American Tribal Judge;

(v) a Native American woman or Native American LGBTQ+ survivor of gender violence;

(vi) a researcher from the University of Utah;

(vii) a sheriff of a county that:

(A) is not a county of the first or second class; and

(B) has, within its boundaries, a federally recognized Native American tribe; and

(viii) a representative of the Department of Public Safety; and

(d) a representative in Utah of a federal law enforcement agency invited to participate by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives.

(3) (a) A vacancy shall be filled by appointing or inviting a replacement member in the

59 same manner as the member creating the vacancy was appointed or invited under Subsection
60 (2).

61 (b) Each member of the task force shall serve until a successor is appointed or invited
62 and qualified.

63 (4) (a) The president of the Senate shall designate a member of the Senate appointed
64 under Subsection (2)(a) as a cochair of the task force.

65 (b) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the House
66 of Representatives appointed under Subsection (2)(b) as a cochair of the task force.

67 (5) (a) A quorum consists of:

68 (i) a majority of the legislator members from each chamber; and

69 (ii) a majority of the nonlegislator members.

70 (b) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes an action of the task force.

71 (6) (a) Salaries and expenses of the members of the task force who are legislators shall
72 be paid in accordance with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Chapter 3,
73 Legislator Compensation.

74 (b) A member of the task force who is not a legislator:

75 (i) may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service associated with
76 the task force; and

77 (ii) may receive per diem and travel expenses incurred as a member of the task force at
78 the rates established by the Division of Finance in accordance with Sections 63A-3-106 and
79 63A-3-107 and rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Sections 63A-3-106 and
80 63A-3-107.

81 (7) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support
82 to the task force.

83 (8) The task force shall:

84 (a) identify the systemic causes behind violence that indigenous women, girls, and
85 LGBTQ+ experience, including patterns and underlying factors that explain why
86 disproportionately high levels of violence occur against indigenous women, girls, and
87 LGBTQ+, including underlying historical, social, economic, institutional, and cultural factors
88 which may contribute to the violence;

89 (b) identify gaps in local, state, and federal law enforcement agency data collection

related to missing and murdered indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ+;

(c) study an effective mechanism for law enforcement in Utah to collect uniform data improvements for law enforcement in addressing the murdered and missing indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ+ crisis in Utah; and

(d) based on review and analysis of the collected data, recommend improvements in the criminal justice and social service systems for preventing and addressing the murdered and missing indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ+ crisis in Utah.

(9) (a) On or before November 30, 2020, the task force shall provide a report, including any proposed legislation, to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee.

(b) The report shall include:

(i) existing or proposed institutional policies and practices that are effective in reducing gender violence and increasing safety of indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ+; and

(ii) recommendations for improvements in the criminal justice and social service systems for preventing and addressing the murdered and missing indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ+ crisis in Utah.

Section 2. **Appropriation.**

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

ITEM 1

To Legislature - Senate

From General Fund, One-time	\$20,000
-----------------------------	----------

Schedule of Programs:

Administration	\$20,000
----------------	----------

ITEM 2

To Legislature - House of Representatives

From General Fund, One-time	\$20,000
-----------------------------	----------

Schedule of Programs:

Administration	\$20,000
----------------	----------

121 The Legislature intends that an appropriation provided under these items be used for
122 expenses relating to the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, and LGBTQ+ Task
123 Force as described in Section [36-29-107](#).

124 Section 3. **Repeal date.**

125 Section [36-29-107](#) is repealed on November 30, 2020.

GRAND TOTAL:

CHAIRMAN
Seth Damon *(Votes Only in a tie)*