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HOUSE BILL 278

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Andrea Romero and Derrick J. Lente and Melanie A. Stansbury and
D. Wonda Johnson

AN ACT

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS; CREATING THE MISSING AND MURDERED
INDIGENOUS WOMEN TASK FORCE; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING
AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--MISSING AND MURDERED
INDIGENOUS WOMEN TASK FORCE--CREATED--FINDINGS--REPORT.--**

A. The "missing and murdered indigenous women task
force" is created.

B. The task force consists of:

(1) the secretary of Indian affairs or the
secretary's designee from the Indian affairs department, who
shall be chair of the board;

(2) the secretary of public safety or the
secretary's designee from the department of public safety;

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1 (3) a representative of the United States
2 bureau of Indian affairs office of justice services designated
3 by the southwest region's deputy regional director for Indian
4 services of the bureau of Indian affairs;

5 (4) one person who is a member of a pueblo,
6 appointed by the governor;

7 (5) one person who is a member of the
8 Jicarilla Apache Nation, appointed by the governor;

9 (6) one person who is a member of the
10 Mescalero Apache Tribe, appointed by the governor; and

11 (7) one person who is a member of the Navajo
12 Nation, appointed by the governor.

13 C. Vacancies by members of the task force appointed
14 by the governor shall be filled by appointment by the governor.

15 D. Task force members appointed by the governor may
16 receive per diem and mileage as provided for non-salaried
17 public officers in the Per Diem and Mileage Act and shall
18 receive no other compensation, perquisite or allowance.

19 E. The task force shall conduct a study to
20 determine how to increase state resources for reporting and
21 identifying missing and murdered indigenous women in the state.
22 The task force shall collaborate with tribal law enforcement
23 agencies to determine the scope of the problem, identify
24 barriers to address the problem and create partnerships to
25 improve the reporting of and the investigation of missing and

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1 murdered indigenous women.

2 F. The task force shall working with tribal
3 governments and shall respect tribal sovereignty. The task
4 force shall collaborate with the United States department of
5 justice to improve its processes for information sharing and
6 coordination of resources in regard to reporting and
7 investigating cases of missing and murdered indigenous women in
8 the state.

9 G. The task force shall report its findings and
10 recommendations to the governor, the legislative council
11 service library and the appropriate interim legislative
12 committee and present those findings to the appropriate interim
13 legislative interim committee prior to November 1, 2020.

14 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred thousand dollars
15 (\$100,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the Indian
16 affairs department for expenditure in fiscal years 2019 and
17 2020 to create and maintain the missing and murdered indigenous
18 women task force. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
19 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2020 shall revert to the
20 general fund.

21 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
22 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.