

Introduced by

Representative Holle

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-36 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the creation of the office of missing indigenous people in the Indian
3 affairs commission; to provide for a legislative management report; and to provide an expiration
4 date.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-36 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Office of missing indigenous people - Duties - Legislative management report.**

- 9 1. There is created an office of missing indigenous people within the Indian affairs
10 commission.
- 11 2. The executive director shall appoint a director of the office of missing indigenous
12 people. The director must be an individual closely connected to a tribe or indigenous
13 community and who is knowledgeable about criminal investigations. The executive
14 director is encouraged to consider candidates for appointment who are recommended
15 by tribes and indigenous communities. The director of the office of missing indigenous
16 people serves at the pleasure of and reports to the executive director.
- 17 3. The office of missing indigenous people shall:
- 18 a. Provide assistance to families of missing and murdered indigenous individuals;
19 b. Facilitate the provision of assistance to local and tribal law enforcement agencies
20 during active missing and murdered indigenous individual cases;
21 c. Maintain communication with the bureau of criminal investigation regarding cases
22 involving missing and murdered indigenous individuals;

- 1 d. Maintain communication with the bureau of Indian affairs and other federal
- 2 agencies as well as agencies in neighboring states and Canada regarding cases
- 3 involving missing and murdered indigenous individuals;
- 4 e. Develop recommendations for legislative and agency actions to address injustice
- 5 in the criminal justice system's response to cases of missing and murdered
- 6 indigenous individuals;
- 7 f. Prepare and advocate for legislation to facilitate recommendations identified by
- 8 the missing indigenous people task force created under section 54-12-36;
- 9 g. Facilitate research to refine recommendations in the report of the missing
- 10 indigenous people task force and to assess the potential efficacy, feasibility, and
- 11 impact of the recommendations; and
- 12 h. Advocate for state agencies to take action to facilitate recommendations
- 13 identified by the missing indigenous people task force.
- 14 4. In executing the duties of the office, the office may coordinate with:
- 15 a. The missing indigenous people task force;
- 16 b. State and federal agencies responsible for investigating, prosecuting, and
- 17 adjudicating cases involving missing and murdered indigenous individuals;
- 18 c. State and federal agencies with a role in supporting or advocating for missing or
- 19 murdered indigenous individuals; and
- 20 d. Individuals and groups that represent the interests of indigenous individuals.
- 21 5. Before August first of each year, the office shall provide a report to the legislative
- 22 management regarding the status of the office. The report must include the office's
- 23 efforts to aid missing indigenous individuals and their families.

24 **SECTION 2. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through July 31, 2035, and after that
25 date is ineffective.