

**2025 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HB 1199**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1199  
1/23/2025

Relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

3:35 p.m. Chairman Schauer opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Proposed amendments for list of people eligible staff.
- For families
- Quick alerts
- Jurisdictional issues

3:35 p.m. Representative Holle, District 31, introduced the bill and submitted testimony, #30931.

3:43 p.m. Representative Davis, District 9, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #30979, #30980.

3:54 p.m. Senator Marcallais, District 9, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #31030.

4:02 p.m. Representative Finley DeVille, District 4a, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #30837.

4:08 p.m. Jamie Azure, Chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #31135.

4:16 p.m. Lonna Street, Chairwoman of Spirit Lake Tribe, testified in favor. #31154

4:32 p.m. Frank Jamison, Vice-chairman of the Standing Rock Tribe, testified in favor.

4:35 p.m. Tanya Hurdle, member of Turtle Mountain Tribe, testified in favor.

4:46 p.m. Alva Cottonwood Gabe, Tribal Chairwoman, testified in favor.

4:49 p.m. Lonnie Grobowska, Director of North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, testified in favor.

**Additional written testimony:**

Denise Dykeman submitted testimony in favor, #29916.

Brenda Weiler submitted testimony in favor, #30480.

James DeCoteau, Co-founder of the Turtle Mountain Missing Murdered Indigenous People Chapter submitted testimony, #30717.

Erin Belgarde, TMBCI MMIP Taskforce, submitted testimony in favor, #30868.

Travis Bateman, Director of Badlands Search and Rescue submitted testimony, #30937.

Hannah James submitted testimony in favor, #30996.

Shanda Poitra, Founder and Executive Director of Turtle Mountain IMPACT: Empowerment Self-defense submitted testimony, #31016.

5:02 p.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF**  
**TO HB 1199**

Date of Hearing: January 23, 2025

Denise Ann Dykeman 1840 12<sup>th</sup> St SW, Minot, ND 58701

Committee chair and members of the committee, my name is Denise Ann Dykeman. I am a resident of Minot, North Dakota. I write in support of House Bill 1199. I support this bill because it creates a Missing Indigenous People Task Force that will hopefully result in decreased violence and result in justice for members of our indigenous communities.

For decades, Native American and Alaska Native communities have struggled with high rates of assault, abduction, and murder of tribal members. Community advocates describe the crisis as a legacy of generations of government policies of forced removal, land seizures and violence inflicted on Native peoples.

- A 2016 study by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) found that more than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native women (84.3 percent) have experienced violence in their lifetime, including 56.1 percent who have experienced sexual violence.
- In the year leading up to the study, 39.8 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women had experienced violence, including 14.4 percent who had experienced sexual violence.
- Overall, more than 1.5 million American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime.

Indigenous people are going missing. Especially Indigenous women and girls. Women and girls are being assaulted and raped. No one should be OK with this.

Our native people deserve to be treated with love and respect and deserve justice when crimes are committed against them just like anyone else. The members of our indigenous tribes have special knowledge and insight and should be revered and protected! There are only 700,000 of us here in ND. Let's work together to make sure each one is safe, healthy, free, and perusing happiness. We can do it.

Please support HB 1199

Respectfully,

Denise A. Dykeman  
1840 12<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Minot, ND 58701

I encourage you to support HB 1199. I support this bill because it would create a Missing Indigenous People Task Force that is long overdue and that can help to decrease violence and bring justice to our ND indigenous communities. Native American communities have long struggled with assault, murder and abduction and it is unacceptable. Please support this bill to help our indigenous communities.

Thank you for your time and service,  
Brenda Weiler

## **Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 1199**

Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly,

My name is James DeCoteau, and I stand before you today as a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, and the co-founder of the Turtle Mountain MMIP Chapter here in North Dakota. I am here to express my strong support for House Bill No. 1199, which addresses the critical issues of missing and murdered indigenous people within our state. This legislation is not just a bill; it is a needed step toward justice and healing in our community.

For far too long, our tribes have faced unique challenges when it comes to the safety and well-being of our members. The disproportionate rates of missing persons among indigenous populations reflect a grim reality that cannot be ignored. Each of these cases represents not just a statistic but a family devastated by loss, a community impacted, and a life interrupted. This bill recognizes the urgency of this matter by establishing a Missing Indigenous People Task Force, which will focus on identifying the barriers that prevent effective responses to these terrible situations.

The provision for a missing person repository is particularly significant. Such a resource will facilitate the timely sharing of information, allowing law enforcement personnel to collaborate more effectively in their search efforts. The inclusion of demographic data related to indigenous people is essential — it ensures that our unique needs and circumstances are acknowledged and addressed.

Furthermore, I cannot stress enough the importance of having a task force comprised of representatives from each federally recognized tribe. This inclusive approach will foster cooperation and communication among tribes and state authorities, enhancing our ability to respond comprehensively to cases of missing individuals. It emphasizes the principle of respect for tribal sovereignty and recognizes our right to self-determination.

This bill also establishes the framework for ongoing funding through the missing indigenous people grant fund, empowering tribes to better assist their community members in identifying, reporting, and finding missing indigenous individuals. This financial support is crucial, as it provides the necessary resources to implement proactive measures and strategies tailored to the specific challenges faced by each tribe.

In conclusion, House Bill No. 1199 represents not only a legislative measure but also a commitment to our indigenous communities. It signals a turning point in the way we address the challenges of missing and murdered indigenous people, reinforcing our collective responsibility to protect and uplift our community members.

I want to emphasize that there are multiple families in my community who have never found answers or peace of mind about their loved ones who have gone missing. This bill is a crucial step towards providing those families with hope and support. I urge all members of the Legislative Assembly to support this bill wholeheartedly and to take a stand against the injustices that have plagued our communities for far too long.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Together, we can make a meaningful difference.

Sincerely,

James DeCoteau  
Co-founder Turtle Mountain MMIP chapter  
P: 701-278-0155  
E-mail: [jj.decoteau@gmail.com](mailto:jj.decoteau@gmail.com)

## Testimony of Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille

In support of House bill 1199

Chairman Schauer and members of the House Government and Veteran's Affairs committee, my name is Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille, representing District 4 A, which includes the MHA Nation. I testify in support for of House Bill 1199, relating to the establishment of the Missing Indigenous People Task Force. This bill is an important measure in addressing the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous people, not only in North Dakota but also across the nation.

The creation of a local, dedicated task force is an essential component of ensuring that we have a coordinated and focused effort to address the specific challenges faced by Indigenous communities when it comes to reporting and recovering missing individuals. Indigenous people face unique barriers to reaching justice, including jurisdictional challenges, lack of interagency coordination, and cultural misunderstandings. This bill aims to remove those barriers and ensure that law enforcement agencies, tribes, and organizations can collaborate effectively.

The task force will identify and address the jurisdictional issues that prevent effective cooperation between federal, state, local, and tribal agencies. This will streamline investigations and improve outcomes for missing persons cases.

We must also understand why this is such a critical issue in North Dakota's Native communities. By tracking the number of missing Indigenous people and their recovery, the bill will provide essential data that will guide future policies and resource allocation. This data will help us understand the characteristics of missing Indigenous individuals and the underlying causes, allowing us to target solutions more effectively.

By approving this bill, we send a clear message to North Dakota's tribal nations that their safety and well-being matter. It is an acknowledgment that the historical and ongoing challenges faced by Indigenous people require targeted and thoughtful action. We must work together to protect vulnerable populations, and this bill provides the framework to do just that.

I urge you to give House Bill 1199 a do pass and help create a future where no Indigenous person is left behind, and no family is forced to endure the pain of a missing loved one without the support and resources they need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF TO HB 1199

Date of Hearing: January 23, 2025

Erin J. Belgarde 114 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE, Rolla ND 58367

Committee Chair and members of the committee, my name is Erin J. Belgarde. I am a resident of Rolla, North Dakota. I write in support of House Bill 1199. I am an Indigenous female who sits on the MMIP Chapter for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Tribe.

Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, & Two Spirits (MMIWG2S) is a crisis that refers to the disproportionate amount of violence and abuse that occurs to Indigenous people in the US. While stats on MMIWG2S are low, the few facts on it are astonishing.

- The third leading cause of death for an American Indian/Alaska Native youth 1-24 years old in 2020 was homicide.
- 97% of AI/AN women and 90% of AI/AN men reported that they had a non-AI/AN assaulter in their lifetime.
- 1 in 3 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced rape or sexual assault in their lifetime.

These statistics are alarming. The MMIP movement is slowly gaining momentum, this has been a problem for decades. Now that we know better, we need to do better.

Please support HB 1199

Respectfully, Erin J. Belgarde 114 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE, Rolla ND 58367

Good Afternoon, Chairman Schauer and members of the GVA Committee,

For the record, my name is Dawson Holle and I'm honored to represent the great people of District 31. Today, I'm introducing HB1199, a bill that would create a Missing Indigenous Persons (MIP) Task Force in North Dakota. This bill addresses a growing crisis that demands our immediate action.

The statistics are startling: Indigenous communities in North Dakota are disproportionately impacted by violence and disappearance. According to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), over 9,500 Indigenous persons were reported missing nationwide in 2020, many of which remain unresolved. In North Dakota, this crisis is especially severe. Indigenous women are murdered at more than 10 times the national average, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (CDC, 2021). The gap between the gravity of this crisis and the response it has received thus far is unacceptable.

The challenge is compounded by the geographic isolation of many Indigenous communities in North Dakota. The remoteness of these communities, coupled with limited resources and inconsistent law enforcement responses, means that cases often go unsolved or are delayed. Families are left without answers, and vital investigations stall because of jurisdictional complexities and lack of communication between tribal, state, and federal agencies.

HB1199 presents a targeted, solution-oriented approach to address these challenges head-on:

1. **Centralized Data System:** The first step in solving any problem is understanding it. By creating a unified data system to track MIP cases across tribal, state, and federal jurisdictions, the task force will address the current fragmentation in data collection. This system will allow real-time tracking, ensuring that no case goes unnoticed or unresolved.
2. **Improved Collaboration Across Agencies:** Jurisdictional barriers between tribal nations, local law enforcement, and state agencies are one of the main reasons cases remain unsolved. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) highlights this issue in their 2018 report, pointing out that coordination between agencies is key to resolving these cases effectively. HB1199 will mandate streamlined communication and collaboration to ensure that investigations are handled swiftly and efficiently, without unnecessary delays.
3. **Culturally Relevant Solutions:** Indigenous communities face unique cultural and legal needs that must be respected in any response to MIP cases. The Indian Law Resource Center emphasizes the importance of including Indigenous leaders in shaping policy, to ensure that any intervention is not only effective but also respectful of tribal values and traditions. The task force will include Indigenous voices at every level, ensuring culturally informed solutions.
4. **Public Awareness and Education:** Raising public awareness is critical to addressing the MIP crisis. According to a 2018 study by the Urban Indian Health Institute, many cases go unreported or under-reported, largely due to lack of awareness about the scale of the issue. The task force will lead comprehensive public awareness campaigns to educate the public, as well as provide training for law enforcement on the specific challenges facing Indigenous communities.

North Dakota has a clear opportunity to lead the way in tackling this crisis. The long-term benefits of HB1199 are clear: faster case resolution, improved trust between law enforcement and Indigenous communities, and reduced crime. More importantly, the task force will restore justice and dignity to families who have long been denied answers.

The cost of inaction is unacceptable—not only are lives being lost, but the erosion of trust between North Dakota’s Indigenous communities and law enforcement continues to deepen. This is not just about solving one missing person case; it is about transforming how we respond to this crisis at a systemic level.

I urge the committee to support HB1199. Together, we can take the necessary steps to protect Indigenous people across North Dakota and ensure justice for every family.

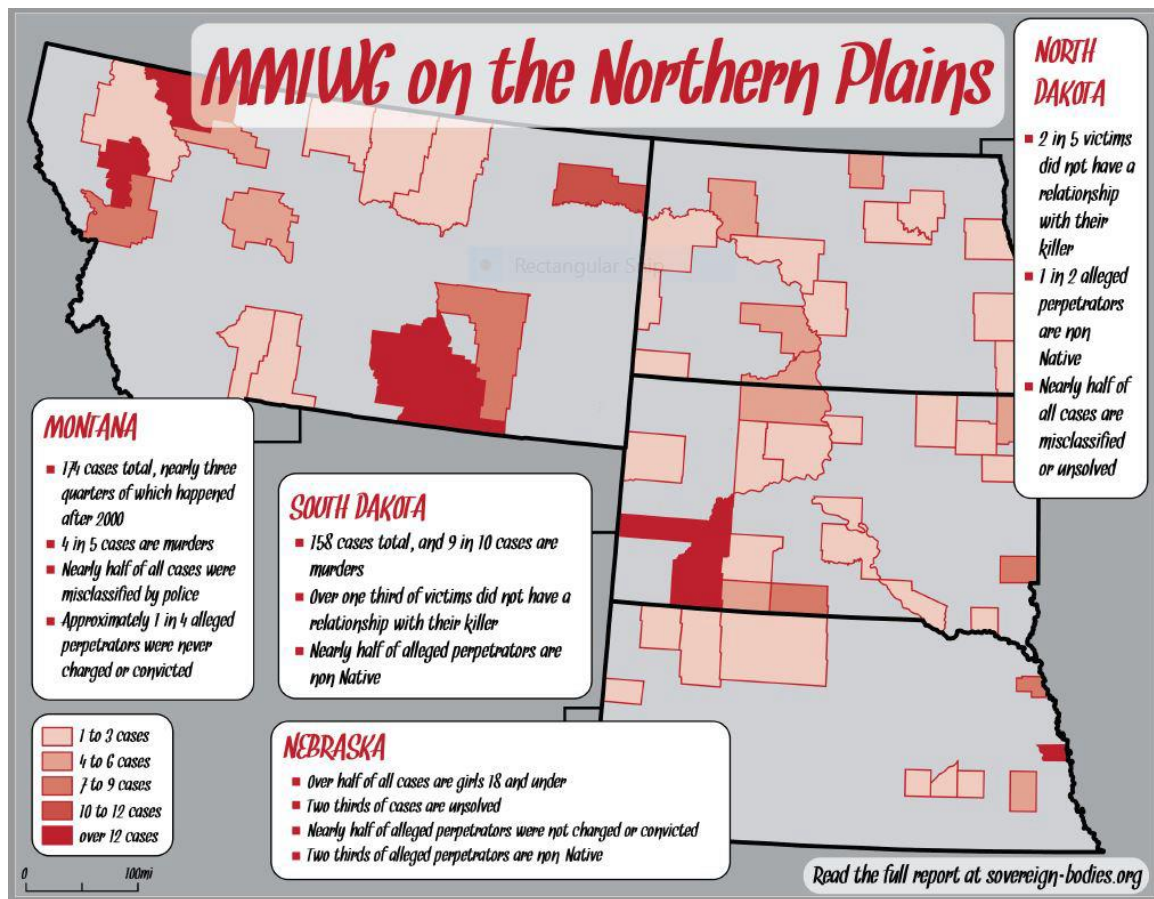
Thank you for your time and consideration.

I do have some amendments to HB 1199

My first change would be on page 4 line 3 “The Attorney General shall serve as chairman or appoint someone to serve in his absence”

24 Missing Indigenous people are missing according to the North Dakota Missing Person.org

However, only two tribes were mentioned so I believe the number is higher.



#### References:

- National Crime Information Center (NCIC). (2020). "Missing Indigenous Persons Statistics." Retrieved from <https://www.fbi.gov>.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2021). "Homicide Rates and Indigenous Populations." Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov>.
- Government Accountability Office (GAO). (2020). "Barriers to Reporting and Investigating Missing Indigenous Persons." Retrieved from <https://www.gao.gov>.
- National Institute of Justice (NIJ). (2018). "Jurisdictional Challenges in Missing Persons Investigations." Retrieved from <https://nij.ojp.gov>.
- Indian Law Resource Center. "Legal Challenges Facing Indigenous Communities in North America." Retrieved from <https://indianlaw.org>.
- Urban Indian Health Institute. (2018). "National Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women." Retrieved from <https://www.uihi.org>.



TO: NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE-69<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION

RE: **TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HOUSE BILL 1199**

1/23/2025

Chairman Schauer and committee members,

Good morning, my name is Travis Bateman and I represent the Badlands Search & Rescue Service along with the Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of North Dakota. I submit to you this testimony in full support and in favor of House Bill 1199.

North Dakota is a state where our tribal members are our neighbors and friends. We have five reservations within our state. Our neighboring states also have tribal lands and all are all interconnected with many traveling to and from one to another for tribal services and just as a general tradition of life. Their connections, traditions, and ideations are unique and worth respecting and also understanding.

The fact that there is a higher percentage of violence and other strife on tribal lands impacts the specific issue of missing indigenous persons. Add in the additional impacts brought on by drugs and human trafficking along with the jurisdictional mess created between jurisdictions for federal, state, and local agencies, we have a prime environment for the flourishing success of criminal enterprises. Criminals do not see state, county, or tribal lands and their lines on a map as a deterrent to their activities but they most assuredly take full advantage of those legal barriers to profit from. I can attest to this having worked in law enforcement in North Dakota with a tribe within the county I worked. Our hands were often tied as to what we could do on those lands and tribal law enforcement was often unable to do anything as well, simply over jurisdiction. The criminals knew this and took full advantage of that, in addition to the oil boom that had every agency overwhelmed. Any documented gang members of MS-13 and others, including many with cartel affiliations were set up or in some way sought refuge on tribal lands.

This is nothing new at this point for our tribal citizens. The impacts are immense upon their lands and the missing and murdered indigenous persons issue is one of the main issues brought on by these criminal operations and continued exploitation of our tribes. Yes, our tribes. We are all Americans and we need to look at this as an American problem, not a tribal problem. The criminals do. They don't see the lines on a map or view these places from a government perspective and so we need to focus on this from that perspective as well.

There are currently twenty missing Native Americans listed on the North Dakota Attorney General's website. Last session sought the establishment of a specific list or database for indigenous persons to further aid in highlighting each person and help in finding them.

North Dakota's population is 4.9% Native American. That's 31,329 people per North Dakota's indian affairs webpage.

A task force to establish the listed purposes and needs is greatly needed here. It would follow suit with several other states. Wyoming has a very solid system established and Montana is also making strides over their last two legislative sessions with their task force. The federal side has established with the Bureau of Indian Affairs an MMIP division. That division is to be specific to the MMIP issues and aid jurisdictions and tribes with those issues but they are walking against the current with how large this issue is. They put two positions, one in Rapid City, South Dakota and one in Billings, Montana with those two positions covering all of South Dakota and all of Montana, for example. That's comparable to having one state BCI agent for western ND and one for eastern ND in my opinion. Not even a drop in the bucket to handle the case load.

But aside from the investigative approach, this needs to also include other law enforcement, specifically those agencies that are out performing those first contact functions like patrol and responding to calls where it is found that there may be criminal operations beyond the call or traffic stop. There needs to be that multi-faceted approach from all possible angles to combat the MMIP crisis. Because it very much is a crisis. It isn't confined to the tribal lands either. It is right here in Bismarck, Minot, Williston, and Fargo. Again, the criminals and actors involved don't see our county or tribal lines. They see people as livestock or product. They see customers to get addicted to their drugs and then opportunity to exploit them for various topics that we refer to as vice crimes in the cop world. Drugs, money, guns, people. Those of us that are good and proper citizens see them as those four words and topics. Those that exploit and profit from those four though see dollar signs and commodities.

The Montana legislature created their MMIP task force in 2019 and extended its mission for an additional 10 years during their 2023 session. The 2023 legislature also appropriated some funds to hire a task force coordinator and provide for administrative costs.

The task force includes representatives from each of the state's eight federally recognized tribes, the Attorney General's Office, the Montana Department of Justice, the Montana Highway Patrol and the Montana Office of Public Instruction. The U.S. Attorney's Office, Indian Health Services, Ohkomi Forensics and the U.S. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Coordinator for Montana are also represented.

The Montana Department of Justice Missing Persons Database currently lists 179 missing persons cases, of which 48 involve Native people. According to a 2024 report from the MMIP task force, 31% of the 2,263 reported missing persons in 2023 were Indigenous people, although Native people account for just 6.5% of the state population.

Funding for the MMIP special revenue account may derive from gifts, grants, donations, securities, and other public and private assets.

Investigations into missing Indigenous people, particularly women, have been plagued by many issues for decades.

When a person goes missing on a reservation, there are often jurisdictional conflicts between tribal police and local and state law enforcement. A lack of staff and police resources, and the rural nature of many reservations, compound those problems. And many times, families of tribal members distrust non-Native law enforcement or do not know where to report news of a missing loved one.

An alert system will help mitigate some of those problems by allowing better communication and coordination between tribal and non-tribal law enforcement and creating a way for law enforcement to flag such cases for other agencies. The law expands the definition of “missing endangered person” to include Indigenous people, as well as children and vulnerable adults with disabilities or memory or cognitive issues.

A report from October 2024 says that Washington state was first in the nation to implement alerts specific to Missing Indigenous Persons more than two years ago. By the end of August (2024) the Washington State Patrol had issued 114 of those alerts, with the subject being located in all but 13 cases.

State efforts to address the MMIP crisis started to get off the ground in 2019. That year alone, Minnesota, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana and New Mexico each launched a task force or study committee to address the issue; Idaho held a summit; and Oregon and Nebraska directed their state police to study the problem. Wisconsin and Utah established task forces in 2020.

In 2021, South Dakota and Oklahoma moved to create offices to address missing Indigenous people and Kansas passed a law paving the way for relevant police training.

It is now time for North Dakota to truly be legendary and continue to embrace our tribal nations and neighbors and catch up to our other states. We are five years behind based on what I have read above. Montana and Wyoming specifically have models in place that I believe North Dakota could model from and then expand to further benefit here at home.

Take one from the criminal’s handbook and use it for good. We need to blur the lines of jurisdiction, see this, and approach it for the all-encompassing problem that it is and establish an MMIP task force as well as M/EIP alert to further this public safety issue.

I implore you to vote for a DO PASS on House Bill 1199.

Thank you and I stand for any questions that you may have.

Respectfully,

*Travis F. Bateman*

Travis F. Bateman  
Director / Founder  
Badlands Search & Rescue  
Search And Rescue Volunteer Association of North Dakota  
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(S) [www.facebook.com/badlandsSAR](https://www.facebook.com/badlandsSAR)

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25.0199.01001  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Representative Davis  
January 21, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### HOUSE BILL NO. 1199

Introduced by

Representatives Holle, Davis, Finley-DeVille, Brown, Frellich, Grueneich, Porter

Senators Braunberger, Cory, Patten, Marcellais

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the collection of data on missing persons and the missing indigenous  
3 people task force; to amend and reenact section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
4 relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative  
5 management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to  
6 provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **54-12-34. Criminal justice data information sharing system.**

11 1. The attorney general shall maintain a criminal justice data information sharing system  
12 within the bureau of criminal investigation for the exchange of criminal justice data  
13 information by judicial, law enforcement, and emergency services agencies, and the  
14 department of transportation. Only an authorized individual employed by a criminal  
15 justice agency as defined in section 12-60-16.1, the department of transportation, a  
16 state court, or the department of emergency services or any other individual approved  
17 by the attorney general or the attorney general's designee may access the system.  
18 For access to the criminal justice data information sharing system, an individual shall  
19 undergo a criminal history background check, including a fingerprint check, and meet  
20 eligibility access criteria in accordance with the rules adopted under this section.

- 1       2.   The criminal justice data information sharing system may be accessed only in  
2           accordance with rules adopted under this section. Any law enforcement record in the  
3           possession of the attorney general through the criminal justice data information  
4           sharing system is an exempt record. Criminal justice data information about an offense  
5           committed by a child if the offense has not been transferred under section 27-20.4-21  
6           to another court having jurisdiction of the offense and information about a child victim  
7           or witness is confidential.
- 8       3.   The attorney general shall provide staff to maintain the criminal justice data  
9           information system and provide administrative support for the advisory board.
- 10      4.   A criminal justice information advisory board must be appointed, consisting of:  
11          a.   The chief justice of the supreme court or the chief justice's designee.  
12          b.   The director of the department of emergency services or the director's designee.  
13          c.   The director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation or the director's  
14               designee.  
15          d.   The superintendent of the state highway patrol or the superintendent's designee.  
16          e.   The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, who is the chairman of the  
17               advisory board.  
18          f.   The chief information officer of the state or the chief information officer's  
19               designee.  
20          g.   The director of the department of transportation or the director's designee.  
21          h.   A representative of a city police department, appointed by the attorney general  
22               from a list of two or more nominees from the North Dakota chiefs of police  
23               association.  
24          i.   A representative of a county sheriff's office, appointed by the attorney general  
25               from a list of two or more nominees from the North Dakota sheriffs and deputies  
26               association.  
27          j.   A state's attorney, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more  
28               nominees from the North Dakota state's attorney's association.  
29          k.   A city government representative, appointed by the attorney general from a list of  
30               two or more nominees from the league of cities.

l. A county government representative, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more nominees from the association of counties.

m. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee.

n. The chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, or the chairman's designee.

o. The chairman of the Spirit Lake Tribe, or the chairman's designee.

p. The chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, or the chairman's designee.

q. The chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, or the chairman's designee.

r. The chairman of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, or chairman's designee.

5. Advisory board members who are not permanent full-time state employees are entitled to compensation of seventy-five dollars per day and mileage and expenses as provided by law for state employees. With the exception of the chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, advisory board members appointed under this section serve staggered three-year terms.

6. The attorney general, after consultation with the advisory board, shall adopt rules to establish eligibility for access to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to implement the collection, storage, and sharing of criminal justice information and the systems necessary to perform those functions; and to address the operation of the advisory board.

~~7. The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users to enter missing person information in accordance with rules established by the bureau of criminal investigation. Missing person information, including demographic data related to indigenous people, which is entered by an authorized user or made available to an authorized user by a federally recognized tribe in this state must be included in the repository. Records under this subsection are exempt records that may be disclosed only in accordance with bureau of criminal investigation rules.~~

**SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Missing indigenous people task force - Membership - Duties - Collection of data on missing persons - Continuing appropriation - Legislative management report.**

1. There is created a missing indigenous people task force. The attorney general shall serve as the chairman of the task force and the attorney general's office shall provide staff services for the task force.
2. The task force shall meet at least once each quarter.
3. The task force membership must include the following members:
  - a. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
  - b. The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, or the chief's designee;
  - c. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee;
  - d. The superintendent of the state highway patrol, or the superintendent's designee;  
and
  - e. A representative from each of the federally recognized Indian nations, tribes, or bands in this state, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more nominees from the chairman of each tribe.
4. While respecting the government-to-government relationship between the state and each tribe, the primary duties of the task force are to:
  - a. Identify jurisdictional barriers between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and community agencies;
  - b. Identify causes that contribute to missing and murdered indigenous people and make recommendations to federally recognized tribes in the state to reduce cases of missing and murdered indigenous people;
  - c. Identify strategies to improve interagency communication, cooperation, and collaboration to remove jurisdictional barriers and increase reporting and investigation of missing indigenous people; and
  - d. Administer the missing indigenous people grant fund.
5. The task force shall submit a report of its activities, findings, and any recommendations to the legislative management by August first of each year. The report must include:

- 1           a. The number of indigenous individuals reported missing in the missing person
- 2           repository;
- 3           b. The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing person
- 4           repository;
- 5           c. The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing
- 6           indigenous people grant fund;
- 7           d. The number of missing indigenous individuals searched for and recovered;
- 8           e. The number of missing indigenous individuals entries into the missing person
- 9           repository by year;
- 10          f. An analysis by year of the characteristics of missing indigenous people, including
- 11          age, gender, child protective services involvement status, foster case status,
- 12          duration of time missing, and estimated related cause;
- 13          g. The number of actively missing indigenous people by year;
- 14          h. A description of the activities and progress related to improving interagency
- 15          communication, cooperation, and collaboration and removing interjurisdictional
- 16          barriers; and
- 17          i. Any other information the task force finds relevant to the task force's mission.
- 18      6. The task force may make recommendations to federal, state, and local agencies in
- 19      carrying out the task force's duties.
- 20      7. Money in the missing indigenous people grant fund is appropriated on a continuing
- 21      basis to the task force for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally
- 22      recognized Indian nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find
- 23      missing indigenous people. The director of the office of management and budget shall
- 24      transfer any funds remaining in the missing indigenous people grant fund after July 31,
- 25      2035, to the general fund.
- 26      8. The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users
- 27      to enter missing person information in accordance with rules established by the
- 28      bureau of criminal investigation. Missing person information, including demographic
- 29      data related to indigenous people, which is entered by an authorized user or made
- 30      available to an authorized user by a federally recognized tribe in this state must be

1           included in the repository. Records under this subsection are exempt records that may  
2           be disclosed only in accordance with bureau of criminal investigation rules.

3           **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - TRANSFER - MISSING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE GRANT**

4   **PROGRAM FUND.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state  
5 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of the sum as may be  
6 necessary, which the office of management and budget shall transfer to the missing indigenous  
7 people grant fund for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally recognized Indian  
8 nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find missing indigenous people, for the  
9 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

10          **SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act are effective through July 31,  
11 2035, and after that date are ineffective.



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Representative Jayme Davis

District 9  
601 John Street  
Rolette, ND 58366-7209  
[jdavis@ndlegis.gov](mailto:jdavis@ndlegis.gov)

## COMMITTEES:

Human Services  
Political Subdivisions

January 22, 2025

### Testimony in Support of House Bill 1199 with Amendment

Good Afternoon Chairman Schauer and Members of the Committee,

I am thankful for the opportunity to speak today in strong support of House Bill No. 1199, a bill that addresses the critical need for a coordinated response to the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) in our state.

This bill recognizes the alarming disparity in the rates of missing and murdered Indigenous people, particularly women and girls, and seeks to implement solutions that respect the sovereignty of tribal nations while ensuring justice and safety for all North Dakotans. The MMIP Taskforce established by this bill would identify and dismantle the jurisdictional barriers that impede timely investigations and create a centralized repository for missing persons' data. These are significant steps toward greater accountability and transparency in addressing this crisis.

Quick example of why this is needed and important. This fall a young girl (about 14 years old) left school with an older man who happened to have background that included sexual violence. They hadn't heard from her and she wasn't answering her phone. Her family and friends were worried and scared for her. Our tribal search and rescue jumped into action immediately but due to the area - we had little cell service, no Wi-Fi. What we did have was plenty of people to help search. They were all waiting for directions on what to do - where to go.

Learning this, I had decided to head to the headquarters deep in the tress of the Turtle Mountains. Very close to the Canada border. Once I got there, I talked with the Fire Chief and asked if there was anything I can do to help. He said we are just waiting for a cell phone ping. The feds were working on it. Now nothing against federal officers but in my opinion and from experience - when the feds get involved more often than not - everything goes silent. So I wasn't a fan of just sitting and waiting for someone else to do something.

It was starting to get dark and cold and we had some tips that she and the man where on the run - catching rides but was possibly still within the reservation boundaries. We also had tips that they were on their way to Fargo or Minnesota. I knew there had to be more we can do than just sit here. I called the one person I knew who could get things rolling. My brother Scott who used to be Indian Affairs Commission Executive Director. Within an hour we had the North Dakota highway patrol on their way with a bloodhound, more heatseeking drones, and more support for searching and coordination and the state also working on pinging their phones.

With the extra support and resources I'm happy to report that the young girl was found along with the man. It was that incident that showed me we need more communication, collaboration. There's a lot of great work being done but if we don't know how to communicate or have procedures in place for situations like this and others like it - we will continue to have our Missing and Murdered Indigenous People numbers rise.

As of this morning there are 20 Indigenous people missing from North Dakota. Four that have gone missing since January 1, 2025. All under the age of 18. Of the 20 - there are only 7 that have photographs uploaded to their entries.

Requiring interagency collaboration among tribal, state, and local governments, the taskforce addresses the historic gaps that have too often left Indigenous families without answers and without justice. Furthermore, the bill's emphasis on demographic data will help identify systemic patterns and solutions.

However, I believe the bill could be strengthened through an amendment I am proposing. This amendment seeks to broaden the representation within the advisory board to include tribal representation from each tribe. As you may know, each tribe is distinct and what could work for one may not work for another. I've also added the Executive Director of the Indian Affairs Commission.

The importance of these additions cannot be overstated. By adopting this amendment, we demonstrate that this legislature is serious about creating real change and delivering justice to the families and communities who have long fought for answers.

In closing, this bill and the proposed amendment represent an opportunity for North Dakota to lead in addressing the MMIP crisis. Together, we can create systems of accountability, empower tribal nations, and restore faith in justice for families who have been waiting far too long.

I urge the committee to support House Bill No. 1199, with the amendment, and take this vital step toward justice and safety for all of North Dakota's communities.

Miigwech, Thank you and with that I'm am happy to stand for any questions.

**Hannah James**

Fargo, ND 58102

[hannahlynnejames@gmail.com](mailto:hannahlynnejames@gmail.com)

218-304-1302

**January 23, 2025**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Public Hearing

North Dakota State Capitol

Pioneer Room

Bismarck, ND

Dear Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1199, which seeks to create a Missing Indigenous People Task Force aimed at collecting vital data on missing Indigenous persons. This proposed legislation is an important step in addressing the alarming and disproportionate number of Indigenous people who go missing, and the lack of sufficient resources dedicated to resolving these cases.

By establishing a dedicated task force, we will have a more systematic and coordinated approach to tracking and investigating these disappearances. The collection of comprehensive and accurate data is essential to understanding the full scope of the issue and developing the necessary policies and resources to support Indigenous communities.

The work of this task force will not only bring attention to the crisis faced by Indigenous families but will also provide a path toward justice and closure for those who have been affected. I strongly believe that this effort will contribute to ensuring the safety and well-being of Indigenous people across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important measure. I urge you to support HB1199 and help make a lasting difference for Indigenous communities in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Hannah James

## **Written Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 1199 with Representative Davis' Amendments**

**Presented by: Shanda Poitra, Executive Director, Turtle Mountain IMPACT**  
**To: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee**

**Date: January 23, 2025**

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shanda Poitra, and I am the Executive Director of Turtle Mountain IMPACT, a grassroots organization dedicated to empowering Indigenous women, youth, and communities through culturally specific violence prevention and cultural revitalization efforts. I am here to testify in support of House Bill No. 1199, and I urge the committee to adopt this legislation alongside the amendments proposed by Representative Davis.

This bill directly addresses the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous people (MMIP) in North Dakota by creating a Missing Indigenous People Task Force, establishing a missing persons repository, and providing vital grant funding for tribal-led efforts. For far too long, Indigenous communities have faced systemic neglect and jurisdictional challenges that leave our relatives vulnerable and their cases unresolved. This bill represents a meaningful opportunity to reverse that trend.

### **The MMIP Crisis and the Need for Action**

The statistics surrounding MMIP are heartbreaking. Over 84% of Indigenous women experience violence in their lifetimes, and in some areas, the murder rate for Native women is more than 10 times the national average. Locally, this impact is felt by the women and girls who participate in our programs. Behind these numbers are real people—our mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends—who deserve justice and safety.

In my own experience, I've seen firsthand how violence, trauma, and systemic barriers harm our communities. This reality is why I founded Turtle Mountain IMPACT in 2018, to empower our people through practical safety skills and traditional cultural practices. In a survey of our past program participants, 67% said that fear for their safety is something they think about all the time or fairly often.

Some examples of the ways people have used the skills to keep themselves and their loved ones safer include:

- A woman was working a janitorial shift late at night when her supervisor attempted to sexually assault her. She used the skills she learned from us to stop him.

- Two teen girls were approached by a man who tried to get them into his vehicle, but they were able to escape.
- A domestic violence survivor used her skills to stay calm and focused during a court hearing despite the provocations of her abusive ex-partner.
- A survivor of abduction and domestic violence told us that learning self-defense improved her Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms.

Every time a member of our community is able to prevent or interrupt violence, it is an achievement for them and a reflection of the need for our work. We have successfully taught self-defense, held community talking circles, and organized search efforts for missing people, but the work is far from done.

### **Culturally Specific Solutions: The Power of HB 1199**

House Bill 1199 incorporates several elements that align with the work we do at Turtle Mountain IMPACT. Its focus on empowering tribal communities and addressing interagency collaboration echoes our own efforts to bring culturally specific solutions to violence prevention. The bill's inclusion of grant funding is particularly impactful, as it will enable tribal nations and grassroots organizations like ours to implement programs tailored to our communities' unique needs.

Representative Davis' amendments further enhance the bill by including tribal representation on the advisory board. At Turtle Mountain IMPACT, we know how transformative these approaches can be. For example, we developed a culturally specific self-defense curriculum for Indigenous women, addressing issues like harassment, hate speech, and intimate partner violence. We've also revitalized traditional coming-of-age ceremonies and launched talking circles to create spaces for healing and empowerment.

This bill and its amendment could help replicate such efforts on a broader scale, creating systemic change that honors our communities' voices and traditions.

### **A Personal Perspective**

My work with Turtle Mountain IMPACT has shown me the resilience of our people and the importance of investing in culturally grounded solutions. One of our proudest achievements is our community's revitalization of a traditional water ceremony as part of a coming-of-age event for young women. It was the first of its kind in decades and combined traditional teachings with modern violence prevention strategies. I believe HB 1199 can support more initiatives like this and build a foundation for safety and healing in our communities.

### **Call to Action**

I urge the committee to pass House Bill 1199 with Representative Davis' amendments.

Together, we can take a vital step toward ending the MMIP crisis and ensuring that our Indigenous relatives are no longer forgotten or ignored.

Thank you for your time and commitment to this important issue and I stand for any questions.

Respectfully,

**Shanda Poitra**

Executive Director, Turtle Mountain IMPACT

Senator Richard Marcellais  
Senate District 9  
Testimony for HB 1199

My name is Richard Marcellais Senator in District 9

Mr. Chairmen members of the House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee its very important to implement a Missing & Murdered Native American People plan to locate and respond to the pass Missing & Murdered Native American People for closure.

Mr. Chairman I I am in favo of HB 1199.



## **TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

4180 Hwy 281  
P.O. BOX 900  
BELCOURT, ND 58316

(701) 477-2600  
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Website: [www.tmchippewa.com](http://www.tmchippewa.com)

January 20, 2025  
House Government and Veteran Affairs  
600 East Boulevard  
Bismarck, ND 58505

**RE: Support for HB 1199**

**Chair Schauer and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Jamie Azure, and I serve as the Tribal Chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of an issue that holds tremendous importance for our communities. Today, I testify in strong support of House Bill 1199.

While I address you as a Tribal Chairman, I also stand here as a father of two amazing teenage daughters. Like any parent, the thought of their safety and well-being is paramount. Tragically, for too many parents in Native Nations, this fear becomes a devastating reality—one of uncertainty, loss, and heartbreak. Families endure the pain of missing loved ones and, in many cases, suffer without the closure they deserve.

For decades, Native American and Alaska Native communities have faced a crisis of violence—an epidemic that includes alarmingly high rates of assault, abduction, and murder of tribal members. The statistics surrounding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) are staggering and deeply troubling:

- Nationally, Native women are more than **twice as likely** to be raped or sexually assaulted than women of any other group.
- On some reservations, Native women are murdered at rates **more than ten times the national average**.
- Nearly **one in three Native American women** will experience rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.

These numbers are not just statistics; they represent lives lost, families torn apart, and communities in mourning.

House Bill 1199 takes a critical step forward in addressing this crisis. It seeks to enhance resources, strengthen data collection, and improve collaboration to combat the tragedy of MMIW. By establishing and empowering the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons

(MMIP) Task Force, this bill will ensure that we can take meaningful action to save lives and provide closure to grieving families.

**Data matters. Resources matter. Lives matter.**

Through a united effort, we can and must do better to protect Native women, support affected families, and ensure that justice is served.

I respectfully urge this committee to support HB 1199. Let us work together to honor the lives of those we've lost and protect future generations from this ongoing crisis.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Jamie Azure

Chairman, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

4180 Hwy 281, Belcourt, ND 58316

**Testimony of Chairwoman Lonna Street**  
**Sixty-Ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota**  
**Regarding House Bill 1199**

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Lonna Street, and I am the proud Chairwoman of the Spirit Lake Nation. I stand before you today not just as a leader of my people but as a voice for those who can no longer speak for themselves—our missing brothers and sisters.

Across our tribal communities, people are disappearing into silence while their families, friends and loved ones are left in the dark—searching, grieving, and begging for answers. The pain of not knowing where your loved one is or whether they are alive or gone forever is a pain that never goes away. The not knowing crushes your spirit creating a wound that never heals.

In my community, we have experienced such loss far too many times. Most recently we have lost Jemini Posey and Isaac Hunt. Jemini was a 21-year-old mother with a bright future and a family that depended on her. Isaac was a vibrant young man full of potential that may never be realized. Both people were taken from us before their time. These people, these young lives are important. They matter, their families matter, and we cannot let them become yet another faceless or nameless statistic.

As tribal leader it has been beyond difficult for me to have no answers for these families. It has been beyond difficult for me to bear witness to a system that failed Jemini, a system that failed Isaac, a system that failed their families and failed our community. When Jemini and Isaac went missing the systemic responses that should have been in place simply were not.

When Jemini and Isaac disappeared, there were no emergency alerts, no immediate state assistance, no coordinated response. Instead, there was silence—silence from the federal and state agencies with the power to act, silence from the systems that should have mobilized. It took four long days for the FBI to even respond. That is four days too many. Delays cost lives. Hours turn into days, and as time stretches on, hope begins to fade.

We don't just face a lack of urgency; we face barriers at every turn.

Through our trust relationship with the United States, the Spirit Lake Tribe currently relies upon the Bureau of Indian Affairs(BIA), a federal agency, to provide primary first response to our crimes and reports of missing persons but the BIA has historically and consistently failed to provide enough officers, sufficient training and sufficient resources. Our BIA law enforcement officers are stretched thin, underfunded, and overwhelmed. The cases involving Jemini and Isaac demonstrated to us the obvious communication breakdowns between the Bureau and the FBI when it comes to missing persons cases and responses. With two primary federal law enforcement agencies lacking clear response to missing persons cases, the Tribe was left to respond with very little support or direction from the very agencies designated to serve our community.

Additionally, we know that having federal, state and tribal law enforcement responding to on reservation crimes can lead to jurisdictional confusion, slower response times or no response at all. Justice system professionals often operate within their own silos creating enormous systemic cracks. Cracks that people like Jemini and Issac can be lost in if we do not act to improve systemic responses, use collaboration as a tool, and provide our first responders with the resources and support they need to adequately respond in times of crisis.

For the families of the missing, for the families of the murdered we must do better. For Jemini's young daughter who has lived an entire year without her mother, we must do better. For Isaac's family and friends who spend every day wondering where he might be, how he went missing, what might have happened to him, we must do better. We must draw upon our collective humanity and take the steps to ensure no person, no family bear the indescribable pain of being left to wonder, being left to search, of being left without answers.

### **House Bill 1199 Comments and Suggested Amendments**

House Bill 1199 gives us a chance to do better. Like any bill it provides a means all of us to do better and that can only happen if we share in a genuine commitment to improving the lives of Indigenous people, the safety of tribal communities and to serving all families in North Dakota who deserve better. House Bill 1199 provides a means to support the development of implementation of important and tangible programs and services which can capture important data, improve our crisis responses, while coordinating and enhancing first response resources.

House Bill 1199 can be a means to implement important initiatives within our tribal communities that go far beyond task force efforts. The House Bill could serve as a means to provide for additional, and possibly life saving measures to be implemented.

After reviewing the draft legislation, there are some measures that I suggest be supported through this legislation:

1. **The creation of tribal emergency alert systems.** When someone goes missing in our communities, every second matters. A tribal emergency alert system ensures that information is shared quickly and with urgency. We have seen the impact of statewide

response tools like AMBER or Silver Alerts but having one specific to tribal alerts brings heightened awareness to the missing and murdered within our tribal communities ensuring that information is shared across jurisdictional and geographic boundaries. Imagine the power of an immediate alert—a message that mobilizes law enforcement, emergency responders, and communities within moments. A message that alerts first responders to Indian Country crisis so they all know and understand their roles and responsibilities. This system could be the difference between finding someone or not. This system can help us to improve outcomes so that children like Jemini's daughter do not have to live with the absence of their mother.

With funds provided through Section 3 of House Bill 1199 combined state, county, and 911 taxes applicable to Indian country residents, money should not be an obstacle to implementing a lifesaving emergency alert system in every community, tribal or otherwise. This is not a luxury; it is a necessity. The time to act is now. Waiting isn't just unacceptable—it can be deadly and we have the ability to ensure that no family has to wait in silence, wondering if help will ever come.

## **2. Funding for Tribal Law Enforcement**

Our officers are fighting this battle with empty hands. They need training, equipment, and resources to respond quickly and effectively. This bill can ensure sustainable funding and ongoing funding to support the development and enhancement of crisis planning, partnerships and equipment—not just for one year, but for the long term.

## **3. Support for State-Tribal partnerships.**

The bill can also support formal agreements, such as memorandums of understanding,

that allow state agencies to step in immediately during a crisis when time is critical.

Whether it's search and rescue teams, forensic specialists, or emergency responders, tribal nations cannot and should not fight this alone.

#### **4. Funds to develop mental health support for families.**

The families of the missing are left to navigate their grief and despair without support.

This is a trauma that ripples through generations. We need culturally appropriate counseling and mental health services for these families and communities. This house bill can support the development of such services as part of a comprehensive crisis response plan or initiative.

**Beyond the specific measures that House Bill 1199 might support, there needs to be accountability and transparency regarding the implementation of the law and the overall responses to missing or murdered indigenous persons.** By developing clear benchmarks and public reporting we can ensure that the spirit of House Bill 1199 is met and that those charged with implementing provisions of this law are accountable for the work done. Additionally, when capturing data, it is important that specific data points including the number of cases of missing indigenous persons being reported, the number of such cases that are solved, and any barriers that may be hindering resolution be captured. The people of North Dakota deserve to know that progress is being made and including more specific data points to ensure there is accountability.

#### **Closing Comments**

It is my sincere hope that House Bill 1199 be passed with the sense of urgency that it deserves. Every day that passes without action is a missed opportunity to heal a family, to provide answers, to bring our missing home. For the mothers, fathers, children and loved ones of a missing person

each day brings new questions, each day brings few answers, each day brings more anguish. This is about our collective humanity—it is about doing what is right and just. Indigenous lives should not be treated as an afterthought and when our people are missing their lives and their families should be treated with the same dignity, respect, urgency, and action as any other citizen of the state and country.

As legislators we have the ability to demonstrate what and who we value in the language of the laws that we pass. What does it say about us if we allow our people to disappear without a fight? What does it say if we let the same broken systems continue to fail our communities? This is not just about a house bill—the actions we as legislators take towards protecting our people is our civic duty and our moral obligation.

Today as you reflect on this house bill, as you reflect upon our missing persons, and as you reflect upon our collective humanity, I implore you to do your part to prioritize these cases and improving our systemic responses. I call upon you to remember the people and not just the statistics. Remember Jemini, remember Isaac, remember that their loved ones continue each day without the answers they deserve. I ask you to do whatever you can to work alongside our tribal communities to take the necessary steps to be better and to do better. Do not let another family grieve in silence because the systems failed them.

I encourage you all to pass House Bill 1199 with the urgency and seriousness it deserves. Fund it fully. Implement it effectively. In doing so you will send a message that you value all people in the state of North Dakota, including the indigenous people. I doing so it will send a message that the state of North Dakota is willing to be a part of developing systems that provide protection, justice, and hope to all citizens.

Thank you. I am ready to answer any questions you may have.

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1199  
1/24/2025

Relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

10:36 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Proposed amendments to replacement chairs.
- Alternative task force members.

10:37 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the discussion on task forces and asked the committee for opinions.

10:41 a.m. Representative Vetter discussed previously mentioned amendments relating to stronger language, alternative task force members and replacement members.

10:42 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1199  
1/30/2025

Relating to the collection of data on missing persons and the missing indigenous people task force. Relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative management report.

9:08 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Possible Amendments

9:08 Representative Brown states that the amendments are still being worked on by Legislative Council.

9:09 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk by Risa Berube*

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1199  
2/6/2025

Relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

9:53 a.m. Chairman Satrom opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

Members absent: Representative Christy

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Committee work
- Amendments relating to the task force committee members

9:55 a.m. Representative Bahl moved to amend the bill relating to the task force committee members.

9:56 a.m. Representative Steiner seconded the motion.

9:56 a.m. Voice Vote passed.

10:00 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

35 2/7/25  
1 of 6

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### HOUSE BILL NO. 1199

Introduced by

Representatives Holle, Davis, Finley-DeVille, Brown, Frelich, Grueneich, Porter

Senators Braunberger, Cory, Patten, Marcellais

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the collection of data on missing persons and the missing indigenous  
3 people task force; to amend and reenact section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
4 relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative  
5 management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to  
6 provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

### 7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

#### 10 **54-12-34. Criminal justice data information sharing system.**

11 1. The attorney general shall maintain a criminal justice data information sharing system  
12 within the bureau of criminal investigation for the exchange of criminal justice data  
13 information by judicial, law enforcement, and emergency services agencies, and the  
14 department of transportation. Only an authorized individual employed by a criminal  
15 justice agency as defined in section 12-60-16.1, the department of transportation, a  
16 state court, or the department of emergency services or any other individual approved  
17 by the attorney general or the attorney general's designee may access the system.  
18 For access to the criminal justice data information sharing system, an individual shall  
19 undergo a criminal history background check, including a fingerprint check, and meet  
20 eligibility access criteria in accordance with the rules adopted under this section.

- 1       2. The criminal justice data information sharing system may be accessed only in  
2       accordance with rules adopted under this section. Any law enforcement record in the  
3       possession of the attorney general through the criminal justice data information  
4       sharing system is an exempt record. Criminal justice data information about an offense  
5       committed by a child if the offense has not been transferred under section 27-20.4-21  
6       to another court having jurisdiction of the offense and information about a child victim  
7       or witness is confidential.
- 8       3. The attorney general shall provide staff to maintain the criminal justice data  
9       information system and provide administrative support for the advisory board.
- 10      4. A criminal justice information advisory board must be appointed, consisting of:  
11      a. The chief justice of the supreme court or the chief justice's designee.  
12      b. The director of the department of emergency services or the director's designee.  
13      c. The director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation or the director's  
14      designee.  
15      d. The superintendent of the state highway patrol or the superintendent's designee.  
16      e. The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, who is the chairman of the  
17      advisory board.  
18      f. The chief information officer of the state or the chief information officer's  
19      designee.  
20      g. The director of the department of transportation or the director's designee.  
21      h. A representative of a city police department, appointed by the attorney general  
22      from a list of two or more nominees from the North Dakota chiefs of police  
23      association.  
24      i. A representative of a county sheriff's office, appointed by the attorney general  
25      from a list of two or more nominees from the North Dakota sheriffs and deputies  
26      association.  
27      j. A state's attorney, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more  
28      nominees from the North Dakota state's attorney's association.  
29      k. A city government representative, appointed by the attorney general from a list of  
30      two or more nominees from the league of cities.

1 I. A county government representative, appointed by the attorney general from a  
2 list of two or more nominees from the association of counties.

3 m. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive  
4 director's designee.

5 n. The chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, or the chairman's designee.

6 o. The chairman of the Spirit Lake Tribe, or the chairman's designee.

7 p. The chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, or  
8 the chairman's designee.

9 q. The chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, or the  
10 chairman's designee.

11 r. The chairman of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse  
12 Reservation, or chairman's designee.

13 5. Advisory board members who are not permanent full-time state employees are entitled  
14 to compensation of seventy-five dollars per day and mileage and expenses as  
15 provided by law for state employees. With the exception of the chief of the bureau of  
16 criminal investigation, advisory board members appointed under this section serve  
17 staggered three-year terms.

18 6. The attorney general, after consultation with the advisory board, shall adopt rules to  
19 establish eligibility for access to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to  
20 implement the collection, storage, and sharing of criminal justice information and the  
21 systems necessary to perform those functions; and to address the operation of the  
22 advisory board.

23 ~~7. The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users~~  
24 ~~to enter missing person information in accordance with rules established by the~~  
25 ~~bureau of criminal investigation. Missing person information, including demographic~~  
26 ~~data related to indigenous people, which is entered by an authorized user or made~~  
27 ~~available to an authorized user by a federally recognized tribe in this state must be~~  
28 ~~included in the repository. Records under this subsection are exempt records that may~~  
29 ~~be disclosed only in accordance with bureau of criminal investigation rules.~~

30 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
31 and enacted as follows:

**Missing indigenous people task force - Membership - Duties - Collection of data on missing persons - Continuing appropriation - Legislative management report.**

1. There is created a missing indigenous people task force. The attorney general shall serve as the chairman of the task force and the attorney general's office shall provide staff services for the task force.
2. The task force shall meet at least once each quarter.
3. The task force membership must include the following members:
  - a. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
  - b. The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, or the chief's designee;
  - c. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee;
  - d. The superintendent of the state highway patrol, or the superintendent's designee;  
and
  - e. A representative from each of the federally recognized Indian nations, tribes, or bands in this state, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more nominees from the chairman of each tribe.
4. While respecting the government-to-government relationship between the state and each tribe, the primary duties of the task force are to:
  - a. Identify jurisdictional barriers between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and community agencies;
  - b. Identify causes that contribute to missing and murdered indigenous people and make recommendations to federally recognized tribes in the state to reduce cases of missing and murdered indigenous people;
  - c. Identify strategies to improve interagency communication, cooperation, and collaboration to remove jurisdictional barriers and increase reporting and investigation of missing indigenous people; and
  - d. Administer the missing indigenous people grant fund.
5. The task force shall submit a report of its activities, findings, and any recommendations to the legislative management by August first of each year. The report must include:

- 1        a. The number of indigenous individuals reported missing in the missing person
- 2        repository;
- 3        b. The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing person
- 4        repository;
- 5        c. The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing
- 6        indigenous people grant fund;
- 7        d. The number of missing indigenous individuals searched for and recovered;
- 8        e. The number of missing indigenous individuals entries into the missing person
- 9        repository by year;
- 10       f. An analysis by year of the characteristics of missing indigenous people, including
- 11       age, gender, child protective services involvement status, foster case status,
- 12       duration of time missing, and estimated related cause;
- 13       g. The number of actively missing indigenous people by year;
- 14       h. A description of the activities and progress related to improving interagency
- 15       communication, cooperation, and collaboration and removing interjurisdictional
- 16       barriers; and
- 17       i. Any other information the task force finds relevant to the task force's mission.
- 18       6. The task force may make recommendations to federal, state, and local agencies in
- 19       carrying out the task force's duties.
- 20       7. Money in the missing indigenous people grant fund is appropriated on a continuing
- 21       basis to the task force for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally
- 22       recognized Indian nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find
- 23       missing indigenous people. The director of the office of management and budget shall
- 24       transfer any funds remaining in the missing indigenous people grant fund after July 31,
- 25       2035, to the general fund.
- 26       8. The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users
- 27       to enter missing person information in accordance with rules established by the
- 28       bureau of criminal investigation. Missing person information, including demographic
- 29       data related to indigenous people, which is entered by an authorized user or made
- 30       available to an authorized user by a federally recognized tribe in this state must be

1 included in the repository. Records under this subsection are exempt records that may  
2 be disclosed only in accordance with bureau of criminal investigation rules.

3 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - TRANSFER - MISSING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE GRANT**

4 **PROGRAM FUND.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state  
5 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of the sum as may be  
6 necessary, which the office of management and budget shall transfer to the missing indigenous  
7 people grant fund for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally recognized Indian  
8 nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find missing indigenous people, for the  
9 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

10 **SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act are effective through July 31,  
11 2035, and after that date are ineffective.

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1199  
2/7/2025

Relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

3:13 p.m. Chairman Schauer opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff  
Members absent: Representative Christy

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee work

3:16 p.m. Representative McLeod moved a Do Pass as amended and rerefer to appropriations.

3:16 p.m. Representative Brown seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Collette Brown	Y
Representative Josh Christy	AB
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

3:17 p.m. Motion passed 13-0-1.

Representative Brown will carry the bill.

3:17 p.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
HB 1199**

**Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0199.01002](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1199 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

**2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1199**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## **Appropriations Committee** Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1199  
2/18/2025

Relating to the collection of data on missing persons and the missing indigenous people task force; to amend and reenact section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

10:53 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chair Kempenich Representatives: Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Tribal and State Agencies
- Centralized data system
- MIP cases

10:55 a.m. Representative Schauer introduced the bill and submitted testimony #37984.

11:09 a.m. Senator Marcellais testified and submitted testimony in favor #37989.

11:15 a.m. Representative Vigesaa closed the meeting.

*Risa Berube for Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk*

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Appropriations committee.

My name is Austen Schauer, District 13, West Fargo.

Today, I bring you **House Bill 1199** as amended, a bill that would create a **Missing Indigenous Persons (MIP) Task Force** in North Dakota.

**HB 1199** addresses a growing crisis that demands our immediate attention.

The statistics are startling: Indigenous communities in North Dakota are disproportionately impacted by violence and disappearance.

According to the **National Crime Information Center**, more than **95 hundred Indigenous persons** were reported missing nationwide in 2020, many of the cases remain unresolved.

In North Dakota, this crisis is especially evident. Indigenous women are murdered at more than **10 times the national average**, as reported by the **CDC** in 2021.

The **gap** between the *gravity* of this problem and *response* to it is alarming.

The challenge is compounded by the geographic isolation of many Indigenous communities in North Dakota.

The remoteness of these communities, coupled with limited resources and inconsistent law enforcement responses, has resulted in unsolved or delayed cases.

As we learned in an extremely emotional **GVA** hearing, families are left without answers, and vital investigations stall because of **jurisdiction complexities** and **lack of communication** between tribal, state, and federal agencies.

HB 1199 presents a ***solution-oriented approach*** to this problem.

### 1. **Centralized Data System:**

The first step in solving any problem is understanding it.

By creating a **unified data system** to track **MIP** cases across tribal, state, and federal jurisdictions, the **task force** will address the current fragmentation in data collection.

This system will allow real-time tracking, ensuring most cases will not go unnoticed.

### 2. **Improved Collaboration across Agencies:**

Jurisdictional barriers between tribal nations, local law enforcement, and state agencies are one of the main reasons cases remain unsolved.

The **National Institute of Justice** highlights this pointing out that coordination between agencies is key to resolving cases effectively.

**HB 1199** will mandate streamlined communication and collaboration to ensure investigations are handled swiftly and efficiently, without unnecessary delays.

### 3. **Cultural Relevant Solutions:**

Indigenous communities face unique cultural and legal needs that must be respected in any response to **MIP** cases.

The **Indian Law Resource Center** emphasizes the importance of including Indigenous leaders in shaping policy to ensure intervention is not only effective but also respectful of tribal values and traditions.

#### 4. **Public Awareness and Education:**

Raising public awareness is critical to addressing the **MIP** crisis.

According to a study by the **Urban Indian Health Institute**, many cases go unreported or under-reported, largely due to lack of awareness.

The **task force** will lead public awareness campaigns to educate the public, and train law enforcement on specific challenges facing Indigenous communities.

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North Dakota has a clear opportunity to lead the way in finding answers to this problem.

The objectives of **HB 1199** are clear:

- **Faster case resolution.**
- **Improve trust between law enforcement and Indigenous communities.**
- **Reduce crime.**
- **Restore justice and dignity to families who have long been denied answers.**

The cost of inaction is no longer an option.

Not only are lives being lost, but we risk the erosion of trust between North Dakota's Indigenous communities and state/local law enforcement.

Details of the Task Force are outlined in pages 4 and 5 of the amended **HB 1199**.

The Attorney General will serve as the chair of the Task Force which will meet quarterly or as needed.

You will notice **HB 1199** seeks the DPI Superintendent as a Task Force member. That is to assist school leaders in the missing of adolescent girls and boys...and provide more awareness to this problem.

The ask is **\$250 thousand dollars** for the next biennium with funding to continue through **2035** for consistency and stability.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, we seek your support of **HB 1199**.

Thank you and I stand open to questions.

# North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Legislative Assembly

## Senator Richard Marcellais

District 9  
301 Laite Loop NE  
Belcourt, ND, 58316-3877  
[rmarcellais@ndlegis.gov](mailto:rmarcellais@ndlegis.gov)

## COMMITTEES:

Finance and Taxation  
Agriculture and Veterans Affairs

Chairman Vigessa, members of the House Appropriations Committee for the record my name is Richard Marcellais, North Dakota State Senator in District 9.

Today I am here to testify in favor of HB 1199, relating to Missing & Murdered Indigenous People.

On behalf of all the Missing & Murdered Indigenous People, it's with retreat that I speak to your on this very important topic today. I could talk about the Savanna's Act that was passed by the Federal Government, but it would not bring back the missing or murdered love ones.

"The Missing & Murdered Indigenous peoples crisis is centuries in the making and will take a focused effort and time to unravel the many treads that contributed to the alarming rates of these cases. But I believe now is the time to correct this problem. We have a Governor and legislator that is prioritizing this. And we can't turn back now. Today I present the following individuals missing & murdered:

Ms. Jayden Rose Marcellais age 27 on November 11, 2020 in Minot, ND.

Mr. Petite Belgrade age 38 on September 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Belcourt, ND.

Ms. Stella Trottier Gaves, age 40 on September 17, 2010 in Belcourt, ND.

Ms. Monica Berliner Wickre, age 42 or 43 on June 16, 1993 in Aberdeen, SD.

Mr. Glenn Longie, missing since 2020.

What I am going to speak on is what we need to do in the future in the State of North Dakota. All five (5) Tribal Nation along with the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission Office needs to develop plans to protect our Indigenous People.

These plans would include:

- Combating human trafficking in Indian Country;
- Call for permanent federal, state tribal law enforcement in Indian Country;
- Create an Amber Alert System in Indian Country;
- Protect Native American women from violence;

- Introduce legislation to develop a problem solving task force with funding;
- Keep communities strong and safe

These plans should be incorporated in the five (5) Tribal Nations educational systems so our students learn at a young age. I am will to assist with developing these plans along with the North Dakota five (5) Tribal Nations.

On some reservations, Native women are murdered at ten times the national average, and 84% of Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. In 2016, North Dakota had 125 reported cases of missing Native women according to the National Crime Information Center, but numbers are likely much higher as cases are often under reported and data isn't officially collected.

It's time to give a voice to these voiceless Indigenous People that matter. It's time to bring their perpetrators to justice and give a voice to the families who are struggling even today, sometimes decades later.

As a proud Native American Vietnam Veteran this reminds me of our Veterans killed in and missing in action during the war where either their bodies were not found or who knows who killed them, maybe that's why former U.S. Senator John McCain former prisoner of war god bless his soul helped introduce and got signed into law to expand Amber alert warnings in Indian Country.

I also have a video from the August 17, 2021, Tribal/State Relations meeting at the Turtle Mountain Community College where family members testified on their Missing & Murdered family members. It's approximately 30 minutes long if your interested in viewing the testimony.

"Yes we can make a difference for our Indigenous People" Thank you very much and God Bless all of you.

Chairman Vegessa members of the House Appropriations Committee I ask for your positive vote on HB 1199. I will try an answer any questions you may have.

## Elick Funeral Home

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### Jayden Rose Marcellais

( June 07, 1993 - November 11, 2020 )

Jayden Rose Marcellais, age 27, of Belcourt, ND passed away on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 in Minot, ND. Wiigigabawitow Migiz Ikwe, "Stands with Eagle Woman"



Jayden Rose Marcellais was born on June 7, 1993 in Grand Forks, ND to Kevin Keplin and Angel (Marcellais)

Gladue. Jayden was raised in Fargo, ND, until the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She then moved to Belcourt where she attended middle and high school. She graduated from Turtle Mountain Community High School in 2011, where she participated in volleyball and basketball. Jayden furthered her education at Turtle Mountain Community College, where she earned a 9-month phlebotomy certificate.

Jayden was very outgoing and enjoyed spending time with her friends. Her laugh and smile were infectious because Jayden had the best sense of humor. Her family and friends lovingly remember her for her "blonde moments" and her favorite meal of noodles and soy sauce. Jayden worked jobs at N8's, The Viking, and Buffalo Wild Wings. She was the loving mother of two wonderful boys, Elijah Knox (8) and Matthew Roman (5). Jayden's boys were the light of her life and they will miss her dearly. She took pride in her appearance and she always made sure her makeup was perfect. Jayden enjoyed being on her phone and her computer. She also collected items representing her favorite basketball team, the Chicago Bulls. Jayden spent a lot of time with her brothers, Dylan and Calvin.

Jayden is survived by her sons, Elijah and Matthew; her parents Angel and Travis Gladue and Kevin and Kelly Keplin; brothers, Dylan Gladue, Calvin Gladue, Kolton Keplin, and Kooper Keplin; sisters, Kwade and Kobi Keplin; grandparents, Roman and Theresa Marcellais, Lena Enno, Howard and Bernie Davis, Jeannie Poitra, and Gary Gladue; uncles, RT (Sherry) Marcellais, Lucas (Rhawnie) Marcellais, Kyle (Cindy) Keplin, Riel DeCoteau, Riley DeCoteau, and Kory Gladue; aunts, Jessica (Dustin) Zaste, Kimberly Keplin, and Ashtynn Gladue; Godparents, Jessica Zaste and Kyle Keplin, and Ruth Carrington and Jon Jon Keplin; and many special cousins.

Jayden was preceded in death by her great maternal grandparents, Frank and Emma (LaFountain) Enno and Joseph "Zeke" and Clara (Champagne) Marcellais, great paternal grandparents, George and Eva (Laverdure) Jeanotte and Louis and Katherine (Delorme) Keplin, and paternal grandfather, Melvin Keplin.



Casket Bearers are Joshua Keplin, Trentten Keplin, Ryder Keplin, William Marcellais, Jordan Marcellais, and Kolton Keplin. Honorary Bearers are all family and friends including, Shanyce Zerr, Kira Champagne, Jotannah Morin, Stephanie Hunt, Amanda Hall, Drew Parisien, Gerianne Brunelle, Bryce Monette, Shodiah LaVallie, Bailey Carrington, Taylor Marcellais, Summer Marcellais, Marc Marcellais, Clarissa Morin, and Andrew Charbonneau. Music by Chad Marcellais. Pall placed by Kolton, Kwade, Kobi, Dylan, Kalvin, and Kooper.

A visitation will be from 1:00 to 3:00 PM on Friday, November 20, 2020 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, St. John, ND with a Funeral Mass at 3:00 PM. Father Richard Fineo presiding. Burial will follow funeral services at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Belcourt, ND.

Elick Funeral Home, Rolla, ND.



*"Petie"*  
*Carl Peter Belgarde*

Carl Peter "Petie" Belgarde the son of Beverly Gourneau and Mort Belgarde was born on Sept. 1, 1972 in Belcourt. He went home Wed. Sept 8, 2010 in Belcourt at the age of 38.

Petie grew up in Belcourt ND graduated TMCHS in 1992. He worked at Jollies in the bakery while in Belcourt, ND. He moved to Grand Forks, ND where He was Food and Beverage/ Catering Manager at the West Ward Ho. He then moved to Fargo to be Catering Manager at Radisson in Fargo, ND. He was recertified CNA and was furthering his education in Belcourt to become a Radiologist.

He loved spending time with friends and family. He loved camping and spent a lot of time with his special friend Robert. He also loved his cats. He has three of his own but when not with them he foster parented for PAWS. Petie loved taking pictures and couldn't wait to have them developed so he could surround himself with those memories. Petie's love for life was contagious and his infectious laugh would quickly fill a room. Petie was always willing to help you, no matter what the project was he always gave his best. He was always there for his friends and family and will be missed immensely.

Survivors include: His Mother Beverly Gourneau, sister Lori Morin, special friend Robert Coons, 2 Nieces, RaeAnn (Brandon Davis) Morin and Jordan Thomas 2 nephews, Isaiah Thomas and Trevor Morin 2 great nephews Brandon Davis Jr and Desmond Joel Davis, close cousins Susie (Adam) Belgarde, Jonie (Russell) Barton, of Fargo ND Lenny (Jerelyn) Belgarde, of Rolette ND, Daryl Belgarde of Belcourt and Tina Rosenthal of Fargo ND.

Petie was preceded in death by his Father Mort Belgarde His Grandparents Joseph (Mary) Belgarde, Gilbert (Florence) Gourneau

*Until we meet again, may God  
Hold you in the palm of his hand.*



In Loving Memory  
of  
*"Petie"*  
*Carl Peter Belgarde*

September 1, 1972  
September 8, 2010

## *Stella Marie Trottier-Graves*

Stella Marie Trottier-Graves was born March 14, 1970 in Belcourt, ND to Joseph 'Buzzy' and Pauline (Desjarlais) Trottier. She attended Turtle Mountain Community Schools and graduated from the Turtle Mountain Community High School in May of 1988.

She attended Bismarck Junior College, MSU-Bottineau, and Minot State University. While attending school and living in Minot, she met and married Kenneth Graves July 17, 1994 and had two daughters and one son during their marriage; Rayanna(12), Leigha (8), and Kaden(4). While married to Ken, Stella lived in Florida, Germany, Japan, and Arizona. Stella moved back to Belcourt in July of 2009 and attended Turtle Mountain Community College.

Stella loved being a mother and her children were her biggest joy. She loved to listen to her daughter, Rayanna, play piano; watching Leigha play dress up and laughing at her zest for life; and see her only son discover and explore his surroundings.

Stella enjoyed being with her family and many friends; especially visiting with her brothers and listening to their music. Stella loved to laugh, tease, and be surrounded by people who loved her.

Stella is preceded in death by her father Joseph 'Buzzy' Trottier.

Stella is survived by her mother Pauline(Desjarlais) Trottier, and her five brothers; Bryne(Cheryl)Trottier, Williston, ND; Richard 'Blue Eyes' (Annette) Trottier, Williston, ND; Eugene (Roxanne) Trottier, Belcourt, ND; Joseph 'Joe' (Marla) Trottier, Dunseith, ND; and Leslie (Jen)Trottier, Williston, ND.

Stella left behind her companion, Clark Fox, who loved her and enriched her life.

Stella will always be remembered and deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

*Until we meet again, may God  
Hold you in the palm of his hand.*

## *In Loving Memory of*



## *Stella Marie Trottier-Graves*

*March 14, 1970  
September 17, 2010*

# 12th March 2016 The Unsolved Murder of Monica Bercier-Wickre Missing then found Deceased in South Dakota, 1993.

is Monica "Mona" Bercier-Wickre:



[<https://4.bp.blogspot.com/-ieQ42ZjliCc/VuQSqF0dF->

[I/AAAAAAAAA7w/1q\\_JU4Nsw8QsqsgmXQdbUVgMAqW\\_hRoA/s1600/12814474\\_10156610504835258\\_159264640772382968\\_n.jpg](https://4.bp.blogspot.com/-ieQ42ZjliCc/VuQSqF0dF-I/AAAAAAAAA7w/1q_JU4Nsw8QsqsgmXQdbUVgMAqW_hRoA/s1600/12814474_10156610504835258_159264640772382968_n.jpg)pg]

Monica was 42 or 43 years old when she disappeared from Aberdeen, South Dakota on April 7th, 1993. Her husband did not report her missing until April 22nd, 1993. Her remains were later discovered in the James River outside of Aberdeen on June 16th of that year. In 2000, Aberdeen police reported that they had a suspect but not enough evidence to charge that person. The suspect has never been publicly identified.

There is limited information available on the internet regarding the circumstances of Monica's death. Her case remains unsolved.

**If you have any information regarding the disappearance or murder of Monica Bercier-Wickre, you are encouraged to contact the Brown County Sheriff's Office at 605-626-7100.**

DOB: Unknown

Tribal Information: Monica is described as Native American and as having grown up on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in North Dakota. Turtle Mountain are an Ojibwe tribe.

Sources:

Cold Case Revisited [<http://www.officialcoldcaseinvestigations.com/showthread.php?7574-Cold-Case-Revisited-1993-SD>]  
Justice 4 Mona [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1985466098345229/>]

Posted 12th March 2016 by Mak

Labels: 1993, Monica Bercier-Wickre, murdered women, Ojibwe, south dakota, Turtle Mountain, usa

1 View comments

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1199  
2/18/2025

Relating to the collection of data on missing persons and the missing indigenous people task force; to amend and reenact section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

7:36 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chair Kempenich Representatives: Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Wagner.

Member Absent: Swiontek.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

7:36 p.m. Representative O'Brien moved Do Pass.

Representative Stemen Seconded the motion.

7:37 p.m. Roll Call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y

Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	AB
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

7:37 p.m. Motion passed 22-0-1 Representative Brown will carry.

7:38 p.m. Representative Vigesaa closed the meeting.

*Risa Berube for Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED HB 1199 ([25.0199.02000](#))**

**Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (22 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1199 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2025 SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**HB 1199**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Workforce Development Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1199  
3/13/2025

Relating to the collection of data on missing persons and the missing indigenous people task force, relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

10:00 a.m. Chairman Wobbema opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Wobbema, Vice-Chairman Axtman, Senator Boschee, Senator Larson, Senator Powers.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Missing Persons Cases
- Crime Statistics
- Advisory Board Members
- Century Code Location Adjustment

10:00 a.m. Dawson Holle introduced the bill and submitted testimony in favor #41208.

10:06 a.m. Representative Jayme Davis testified in favor and submitted testimony #41216.

10:11 a.m. Representative Collette Brown testified in favor and submitted #41313.

10:16 a.m. Representative Lisa Finley-DeVile testified in favor and submitted testimony #41211.

10:19 a.m. Senator Richard Marcellais testified in favor and submitted testimony #41317.

10:26 a.m. Heidi Smith, IT/CJIS Director at Attorney General's Office, testified in neutral and submitted testimony #41118.

10:34 a.m. Steven Harstad, Chief Agent of the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Identification, testified in neutral.

### **Additional written testimony:**

Tasha Morin, Law Enforcement Representative with MMIP Turtle Mountain Chapter, submitted written testimony in favor #39945.

Travis F. Bateman, Founder and Director of Badlands Search & Rescue, submitted written testimony in favor # 40375.

10:43 a.m. Chairman Wobbema closed the hearing.

Senate Workforce Development Committee

HB 1199

03/13/2025

Page 2

*Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk*

Testimony in support of **HB 1199**.

This is written in support of HB 1199. As someone who has worked as a federal law enforcement officer for the past twenty-six years, I have witnessed firsthand the breakdown that can occur when an incident happens with an Indigenous individual or in an Indigenous community. The restrictions on information sharing and interagency cooperation currently experienced by the criminal justice system increases the response time to these incidents.

The communication abilities outlined in this bill will greatly improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system response to missing and murdered Indigenous individuals, and will allow the system to share the necessary information to appropriately respond to these incidents. Additionally, streamlining this process with a task force will focus our resources and reduce duplication of services because multiple agencies will not have to work on the same case in a silo the way they currently do.



TO: NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE-69<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION

RE: **TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HOUSE BILL 1199**

3/11/2025

Chairman Wobbema and committee members,

Good day to you, my name is Travis Bateman and I represent the Badlands Search & Rescue Service along with the Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of North Dakota.

I submit to you this testimony in full support and in favor of House Bill 1199.

North Dakota is a state where our tribal members are our neighbors and friends. We have five reservations within our state. Our neighboring states also have tribal lands and all are interconnected with many traveling to and from one to another for tribal services and just as a general tradition of life. Their connections, traditions, and ideations are unique and worth respecting and also understanding.

The fact that there is a higher percentage of violence and other strife on tribal lands impacts the specific issue of missing indigenous persons. Add in the additional impacts brought on by drugs and human trafficking along with the jurisdictional mess created between jurisdictions for federal, state, and local agencies, we have a prime environment for the flourishing success of criminal enterprises. Criminals do not see state, county, or tribal lands and their lines on a map as a deterrent to their activities but they most assuredly take full advantage of those legal barriers to profit from. I can attest to this having worked in law enforcement in North Dakota with a tribe within the county I worked. Our hands were often tied as to what we could do on those lands and tribal law enforcement was often unable to do anything as well, simply over jurisdiction. The criminals knew this and took full advantage of that, in addition to the oil boom that had every agency overwhelmed. Any documented gang members of MS-13 and others, including many with cartel affiliations were set up or in some way sought refuge on tribal lands.

This is nothing new at this point for our tribal citizens. The impacts are immense upon their lands and the missing and murdered indigenous persons issue is one of the main issues brought on by these criminal operations and continued exploitation of our tribes. Yes, our tribes. We are all Americans and we need to look at this as an American problem, not a tribal problem. The criminals do. They don't see the lines on a map or view these places from a government perspective and so we need to focus on this from that perspective as well.

There are currently twenty missing Native Americans listed on the North Dakota Attorney General's website. Last session sought the establishment of a specific list or database for indigenous persons to further aid in highlighting each person and help in finding them.

North Dakota's population is 4.9% Native American. That's 31,329 people per North Dakota's Indian Affairs webpage.

A task force to establish the listed purposes and needs is greatly needed here. It would follow suit with several other states. Wyoming has a very solid system established and Montana is also making strides over their last two legislative sessions with their task force. The federal side has established with the Bureau of Indian Affairs an MMIP division. That division is to be specific to the MMIP issues and aid jurisdictions and tribes with those issues but they are walking against the current with how large this issue is. They put two positions, one in Rapid City, South Dakota and one in Billings, Montana with those two positions covering all of South Dakota and all of Montana, for example. That's comparable to having one state BCI agent for western ND and one for eastern ND in my opinion. Not even a drop in the bucket to handle the case load.

But aside from the investigative approach, this needs to also include other law enforcement, specifically those agencies that are out performing those first contact functions like patrol and responding to calls where it is found that there may be criminal operations beyond the call or traffic stop. There needs to be that multi-faceted approach from all possible angles to combat the MMIP crisis. Because it very much is a crisis. It isn't confined to the tribal lands either. It is right here in Bismarck, Minot, Williston, and Fargo. Again, the criminals and actors involved don't see our county or tribal lines. They see people as livestock or product. They see customers to get addicted to their drugs and then opportunity to exploit them for various reasons that we refer to as vice crimes in the cop world. Drugs, money, guns, people. Those of us that are good and proper citizens see them as those four words and topics. Those that exploit and profit from those four though see dollar signs and commodities.

The Montana legislature created their MMIP task force in 2019 and extended its mission for an additional 10 years during their 2023 session. The 2023 legislature also appropriated some funds to hire a task force coordinator and provide for administrative costs.

The task force includes representatives from each of the state's eight federally recognized tribes, the Attorney General's Office, the Montana Department of Justice, the Montana Highway Patrol and the Montana Office of Public Instruction. The U.S. Attorney's Office, Indian Health Services, Ohkomi Forensics and the U.S. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Coordinator for Montana are also represented.

The Montana Department of Justice Missing Persons Database currently lists 179 missing persons cases, of which 48 involve Native people. According to a 2024 report from the MMIP task force, 31% of the 2,263 reported missing persons in 2023 were Indigenous people, although Native people account for just 6.5% of the state population.

Funding for the MMIP special revenue account may derive from gifts, grants, donations, securities, and other public and private assets.

Investigations into missing Indigenous people, particularly women, have been plagued by many issues for decades.

When a person goes missing on a reservation, there are often jurisdictional conflicts between tribal police and local and state law enforcement. A lack of staff and police resources, and the rural nature of many reservations, compound those problems. And many times, families of tribal members distrust non-Native law enforcement or do not know where to report news of a missing loved one.

An alert system will help mitigate some of those problems by allowing better communication and coordination between tribal and non-tribal law enforcement and creating a way for law enforcement to flag such cases for other agencies. The law expands the definition of “missing endangered person” to include Indigenous people, as well as children and vulnerable adults with disabilities or memory or cognitive issues.

**A report from October 2024 says that Washington state was first in the nation to implement alerts specific to Missing Indigenous Persons more than two years ago. By the end of August (2024) the Washington State Patrol had issued 114 of those alerts, with the subject being located in all but 13 cases.**

State efforts to address the MMIP crisis started to get off the ground in **2019**. That year alone, Minnesota, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana and New Mexico each launched a task force or study committee to address the issue; Idaho held a summit; and Oregon and Nebraska directed their state police to study the problem. Wisconsin and Utah established task forces in **2020**.

In **2021**, South Dakota and Oklahoma moved to create offices to address missing Indigenous people and Kansas passed a law paving the way for relevant police training.

**It is now time for North Dakota to truly be legendary and continue to embrace our tribal nations and neighbors and catch up to our other states. We are five years behind based on what I have read above. Montana and Wyoming specifically have models in place that I believe North Dakota could model from and then expand to further benefit here at home.**

Take one from the criminal’s handbook and use it for good. We need to blur the lines of jurisdiction, see this, and approach it for the all-encompassing problem that it is and establish an MMIP task force as well as Feather Alert to further this public safety issue.

**I implore you to vote for a DO PASS on House Bill 1199.**

Thank you and please reach out with any questions you may have of me. Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully,

*Travis F. Bateman*

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## SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

TESTIMONY OF HEIDI SMITH  
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1199

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Committee:

My name is Heidi Smith, IT/CJIS Division Director with the Office of Attorney General, and I appear on behalf of the Attorney General to provide neutral testimony on House Bill 1199. I will try to provide some clarification on the advisory board addressed in section 1 of the bill and the amendments made to that section in the House. Based on the testimony in the House, the intent of the bill, and the function of the advisory board in section 1 of the bill, the committee may want to revisit where the list of new members on page 3, lines 1-10 should be placed in the bill.

The Criminal Justice Information Sharing System Advisory Board's Role

The Criminal Justice Information Sharing (CJIS) system, which is provided by IT/CJIS, is a software application that provides information to authorized criminal justice personnel. To protect the law enforcement data in the CJIS system, access to it is granted through an application process requiring a criminal background check. If someone's application is denied or if someone's access is suspended, the CJIS Advisory Board – which is the advisory board addressed in section 1 of House Bill 1199 – reviews the matter and provides guidance and recommendations regarding that person's application or suspension to the Attorney General. Importantly for House Bill 1199, the Advisory Board does not weigh in on, or make recommendations regarding, investigative techniques, criminal justice budgets, law enforcement duties, law enforcement priorities, or other matters addressed in the bill.

### Testimony in the House Regarding Amendment to HB 1199

When the amendment to House Bill 1199 was introduced in the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, the committee discussions indicated that it would add members to the taskforce in section 2 of the bill. The additions to the CJIS Advisory Board, however, do not impact the membership of the taskforce, so the new members may have inadvertently been added to the wrong section of the bill.

### Difficulty Filling CJIS Advisory Board Quorum Each Quarter

If the new members remain in section 1 of the bill, there will be unintended consequences for law enforcement operations. The CJIS Advisory Board currently is made up of 12 members within the law enforcement, criminal justice and technology communities that support, contribute to, and utilize the CJIS system. At times they have access to confidential and FBI protected data so they have to get the appropriate clearances for that access. The board meets quarterly and must have a quorum (*more than half of the members*) present at each meeting to act and make recommendations. Due to the competing demands on the members' schedules, it is already difficult to fill a quorum at each meeting.

Adding 6 new members to the CJIS Advisory Board, as provided on page 3, lines 1-10 of the bill, would increase the number of members required for a quorum from 7 members to 10 members. This would make it extremely difficult to ensure meetings could be held quarterly, resulting in negative consequences for law enforcement. If a quorum is unable to meet, appeals for access to the CJIS system will not be heard, and recommendations regarding access will not be made to the Attorney General. This will slow down the hiring process for law enforcement agencies, prohibit officers from having access to critical information to do their jobs safely, and impact the ability of law enforcement officers to receive or maintain POST board certification.

For these reasons, the Office of Attorney recommends that the changes to the membership of the CJIS Advisory Board made by the amendment to House Bill 1199 be reconsidered. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I would stand for any questions.

Good Afternoon, Chairman Wobbema and members of the Workforce Development Committee,

For the record, my name is Dawson Holle and I'm honored to represent the great people of District 31. Today, I'm introducing Uu HB1199, a bill that would create a Missing Indigenous Persons (MIP) Task Force in North Dakota. This bill addresses

the growing crisis that demands our immediate action.

The statistics are startling: Indigenous communities in North Dakota are disproportionately impacted by violence and disappearance. According to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), over 9,500 Indigenous persons were reported missing nationwide in 2020, many of which remain unresolved. In North Dakota, this crisis is especially severe. Indigenous women are murdered at more than 10 times the national average, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (CDC, 2021). The gap between the gravity of this crisis and the response it has received thus far is unacceptable.

The challenge is compounded by the geographic isolation of many Indigenous communities in North Dakota. The remoteness of these communities, coupled with limited resources and inconsistent law enforcement responses, means that cases often go unsolved or are delayed. Families are left without answers, and vital investigations stall because of jurisdictional complexities and lack of communication between tribal, state, and federal agencies.

HB1199 presents a targeted, solution-oriented approach to address these challenges head-on:

1. **Centralized Data System:** The first step in solving any problem is understanding it. By creating a unified data system to track MIP cases across tribal, state, and federal jurisdictions, the task force will address the current fragmentation in data collection. This system will allow real-time tracking, ensuring that no case goes unnoticed or unresolved.
2. **Improved Collaboration Across Agencies:** Jurisdictional barriers between tribal nations, local law enforcement, and state agencies are one of the main reasons cases remain unsolved. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) highlights this issue in their 2018 report, pointing out that coordination between agencies is key to resolving these cases effectively. HB1199 will mandate streamlined communication and collaboration to ensure that investigations are handled swiftly and efficiently, without unnecessary delays.
3. **Culturally Relevant Solutions:** Indigenous communities face unique cultural and legal needs that must be respected in any response to MIP cases. The Indian Law Resource Center emphasizes the importance of including Indigenous leaders in shaping policy, to ensure that any intervention is not only effective but also respectful of tribal values and traditions. The task force will include Indigenous voices at every level, ensuring culturally informed solutions.
4. **Public Awareness and Education:** Raising public awareness is critical to addressing the MIP crisis. According to a 2018 study by the Urban Indian Health Institute, many cases go unreported or under-reported, largely due to lack of awareness about the scale of the issue. The task force will lead comprehensive public awareness campaigns to educate the public, as well as provide training for law enforcement on the specific challenges facing Indigenous communities.

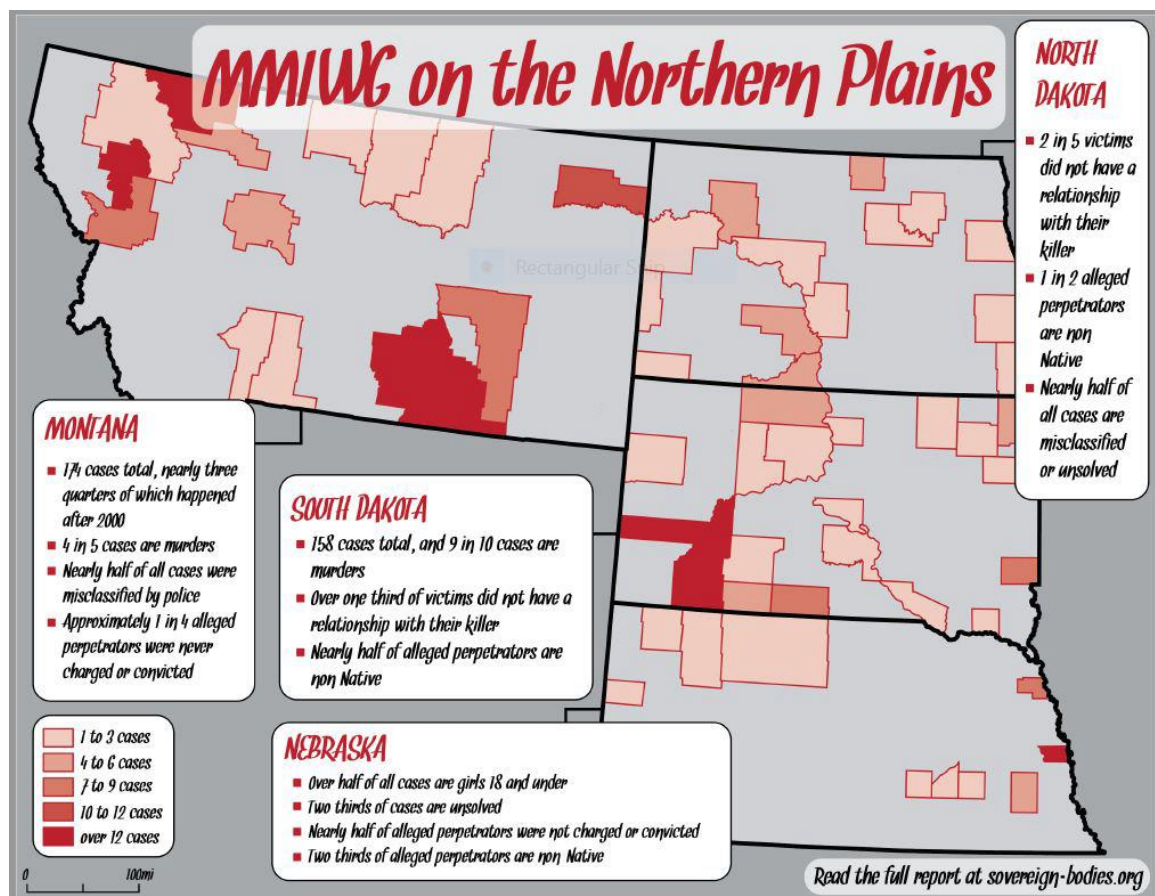
North Dakota has a clear opportunity to lead the way in tackling this crisis. The long-term benefits of HB1199 are clear: faster case resolution, improved trust between law enforcement and Indigenous communities, and reduced crime. More importantly, the task force will restore justice and dignity to families who have long been denied answers.

The cost of inaction is unacceptable—not only are lives being lost, but the erosion of trust between North Dakota's Indigenous communities and law enforcement continues to deepen. This is not just about solving one missing person case; it is about transforming how we respond to this crisis at a systemic level.

I urge the committee to support HB1199. Together, we can take the necessary steps to protect Indigenous people across North Dakota and ensure justice for every family.

24 Missing Indigenous people are missing according to the North Dakota Missing Person.org

However, only two tribes were mentioned so I believe the number is higher.



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## Testimony of Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille

In support of House bill 1199

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development committee, my name is Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille, representing District 4 A, which includes the MHA Nation. I testify in support for of House Bill 1199, relating to the establishment of the Missing Indigenous People Task Force. This bill is an important measure in addressing the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous people, not only in North Dakota but also across the nation.

The creation of a local, dedicated task force is an essential component of ensuring that we have a coordinated and focused effort to address the specific challenges faced by Indigenous communities when it comes to reporting and recovering missing individuals. Indigenous people face unique barriers to reaching justice, including jurisdictional challenges, lack of interagency coordination, and cultural misunderstandings. This bill aims to remove those barriers and ensure that law enforcement agencies, tribes, and organizations can collaborate effectively.

The task force will identify and address the jurisdictional issues that prevent effective cooperation between federal, state, local, and tribal agencies. This will streamline investigations and improve outcomes for missing persons cases.

We must also understand why this is such a critical issue in North Dakota's Native communities. By tracking the number of missing Indigenous people and their recovery, the bill will provide essential data that will guide future policies and resource allocation. This data will help us understand the characteristics of missing Indigenous individuals and the underlying causes, allowing us to target solutions more effectively.

By approving this bill, we send a clear message to North Dakota's tribal nations that their safety and well-being matter. It is an acknowledgment that the historical and ongoing challenges faced by Indigenous people require targeted and thoughtful action. We must work together to protect vulnerable populations, and this bill provides the framework to do just that.

I urge you to give House Bill 1199 a do pass and help create a future where no Indigenous person is left behind, and no family is forced to endure the pain of a missing loved one without the support and resources they need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
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## Representative Jayme Davis

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## COMMITTEES:

Human Services  
Political Subdivisions

March 13, 2025

### Testimony in Support of House Bill 1199

Good Morning Chairman Wobbema, Vice Chair Axtman and Members of the Workforce Development Committee. I am thankful for the opportunity to speak today in strong support of House Bill No. 1199, a bill that addresses the critical need for a coordinated response to the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) in our state.

This bill recognizes the alarming disparity in the rates of missing and murdered Indigenous people, particularly women and girls, and seeks to implement solutions that respect the sovereignty of tribal nations while ensuring justice and safety for all North Dakotans. The MMIP Taskforce established by this bill would identify and dismantle the jurisdictional barriers that impede timely investigations and create a centralized repository for missing persons' data. These are significant steps toward greater accountability and transparency in addressing this crisis.

A quick example of why this is needed and important. This fall a young girl (about 14 years old) left school with an older man who happened to have background that included sexual violence. They hadn't heard from her and she wasn't answering her phone. Her family and friends were worried and scared for her. Our tribal search and rescue jumped into action immediately but due to the area - we had little cell service, no Wi-Fi. What we did have was plenty of people to help search. They were all waiting for directions on what to do - where to go.

Learning this, I had decided to head to the headquarters deep in the tress of the Turtle Mountains. Very close to the Canada border. Once I got there, I talked with the Fire Chief and asked if there was anything I could do to help. He said we are just waiting for a cell phone to ping. The feds were working on it. Now, I have nothing against federal officers but in my opinion and from experience - when the feds get involved more often than not - everything goes silent. So, I wasn't a fan of just sitting and waiting for someone else to do something.

It was starting to get dark and cold and we had some tips that she and the man where on the run - catching rides but was possibly still within the reservation boundaries. We also had tips that they were on their way to Fargo or Minnesota. I knew there had to be more we could do than just sit here. I called the one person I knew who could get things rolling. My brother Scott who used to be Indian Affairs Commission Executive Director. Within an hour we had the North Dakota highway patrol on their way with a bloodhound, more heatseeking drones, and more support for searching and coordination and the state also working on pinging their phones.

With the extra support and resources I'm happy to report that the young girl was found along with the man. It was that incident that showed me we need more communication and collaboration. There's a lot of great work being done but if we don't know how to communicate or have procedures in place for situations like this and others like it - we will continue to have our Missing and Murdered Indigenous People numbers rise.

As of this morning there are 20 Indigenous people missing from North Dakota. Eleven that have gone missing since January 1, 2025. Seven are under the age of 18. Of the 20 - there are only eight that have photographs uploaded to their entries.

Requiring interagency collaboration among tribal, state, and local governments, the taskforce addresses the historic gaps that have too often left Indigenous families without answers and without justice. Furthermore, the bill's emphasis on demographic data will help identify systemic patterns and solutions.

In closing, this bill is an opportunity for North Dakota to lead in addressing the MMIP crisis. Together, we can create systems of accountability, empower tribal nations, and restore faith in justice for families who have been waiting far too long.

I urge the committee to support House Bill No. 1199 and take this vital step toward justice and safety for all of North Dakota's communities.

Miigwech, Thank you and with that I'm am happy to stand for any questions.



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
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## Representative Collette Brown

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## COMMITTEES:

Industry, Business and Labor  
Government and Veterans Affairs

March 13, 2025

Chairman Wobbema and Committee Members for the record my name is Collette Brown Representative from District 9 which including two of the five Tribes in ND, the TMBC and SLT.

I stand before you today to urge your support for House Bill 1199, which proposes the creation of a Murdered and Missing Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Task Force. This task force will bring together key leaders and agencies to address the growing epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous persons that has plagued our state and our nation. It is a crisis that demands immediate action—action that North Dakota is poised to lead.

The statistics are alarming, and the time for action is now. According to the National Crime Information Center, more than 9,500 Indigenous people were reported missing in 2020, with many cases still unresolved. The situation is even more dire—Indigenous persons are going missing and being murdered at a rate more than ten times the national average, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These numbers are not just statistics; they represent families, communities, and lives forever altered.

The current response to this crisis has been inadequate. Geographic isolation, limited resources, and jurisdictional complications between tribal, state, and federal agencies have left families without answers, without closure, and without justice. For too long, Indigenous communities have been left in the shadows, suffering in silence. It is time to change that.

HB 1199 will create a task force that will meet and work tirelessly to address this issue. The membership of the task force, which includes key stakeholders such as the Attorney General, the Chief of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, the Executive Director of the Indian Affairs Commission, and representatives from each of the federally recognized tribes in the state, will ensure that this issue receives the attention it deserves. This task force will identify barriers, improve collaboration, and make recommendations that will lead to faster resolutions of cases and, ultimately, to justice for the victims and their families.

This task force is not just a matter of government response—it is a moral imperative. The cost of inaction is too high. The lives of Indigenous persons are at risk, and the erosion of trust between Indigenous communities and law enforcement is growing. Every day we delay is another day of uncertainty and pain for the families who have already suffered too much.

North Dakota has the opportunity to lead the nation in addressing this epidemic. By passing this bill, we will strengthen trust between law enforcement and Indigenous communities, improve the identification and reporting of missing persons, and, most importantly, restore justice and dignity to families who have been denied answers for far too long.

This bill provides \$250,000 in funding for the next biennium to support tribal efforts in identifying, reporting, and locating missing Indigenous persons. It is a small investment for a cause that will yield significant, life-changing results. We cannot afford to wait any longer. The time to act is now.

As legislators, we have the privilege and the responsibility to be part of the real conversation. We can make a difference, and we must. Let us stand together to support this crucial bill, to stand for accountability, justice, and safety for all North Dakotans. Let us act now, not just for the present, but for the next seven generations.

Lastly, I want to add for the record I want to submit the Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council subcommittee report from January 2024 on their finds for MMIP

I respectfully ask for your support of HB 1199. Together, we can ensure that no more Indigenous persons are lost without justice, and no more families are left without closure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



# Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council

Public Safety & Criminal Justice Addressing the  
Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People  
Subcommittee

Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council  
January 10, 2024



Homeland  
Security

This publication is presented on behalf of the Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council (THSAC) Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Subcommittee Co-Chaired by DeCota Thompson and Emmalene Sitting Bear for the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Alejandro N. Mayorkas.

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## **SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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<b>DeCota Thompson</b>	Co-Chair; Akwesasne – Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe; Lieutenant, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department
<b>Emmalene Sitting Bear</b>	Co-Chair; The Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation/Three Affiliated Tribes; Director, MHA Nation Emergency Operations Center
<b>Kimberly Hampton</b>	Vice Chair of THSAC & Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; Board of Directors, Unit 4
<b>Chief Harold Pierite Sr.</b>	Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana; Chief of Police, Tunica Biloxi Police Department
<b>Antonio Cesar Gonzalez Jr.</b>	Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas; Director of Security, Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Secretary Mayorkas tasked the THSAC with forming a subcommittee to address the crisis of missing or murdered indigenous people. As a result, a subcommittee was formed with the task of *Addressing the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People* (MMIP). Native Americans face excessively high levels of violence and are victims of violent crimes at a much higher rate than the national average. Executive Order 14053 (EO) tasked the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with providing support to federal partner agencies, including the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for their ongoing efforts to address the crisis of MMIP. A further inspection of the EO highlights the Department's role in the following areas:

1. Coordination of Federal Law Enforcement Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Native Americans.
2. Supporting Tribal and Other Non-Federal Law Enforcement Efforts to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Native Americans.
3. Improving Data Collection, Analysis, and Information Sharing.
4. Strengthening Prevention, Early Intervention, and Victim Survivor Services.

The tasking of this sub-committee was to focus on items three and four, through independent assessments of DHS's current actions as it relates to the two sections. There is a lot of ongoing, and newly completed work, as it relates to the MMIP crisis among numerous parts of the Federal government. The tasking here attempts to build upon and not replace any of that important work, rather how DHS can supplement those efforts to assist Nations in addressing the crisis and increase public safety among Nations.

In recognition of these impediments, the Secretary tasked this Subcommittee with reviewing the program and stakeholder feedback, and providing recommendations with insight into:

Provide an independent assessment of DHS's current actions relating to item three of the EO, *Improving Data Collection, Analysis, and Information Sharing*. This assessment included:

- Collection of relevant criminal data and data related to MMIP from Tribal Nations and organizations;
- Review and assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department's information sharing to enhance the security and preparedness within Tribal Nations. This includes recommendations for new information-sharing mechanisms, whether via platforms or networks, or by creating a new process that will effectively communicate threat information and other relevant federal resources to Native Americans; and

- Outline further areas in which the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can promote its Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS) in relation to cases of MMIP.

Provide an independent assessment of DHS's current actions relating to item four, *Strengthening Prevention, Early Intervention, and Victim and Survivor Services*. This assessment should include but not be limited to:

- Distribution of education, awareness, and training materials from the Blue Campaign to Tribal Nations;
- Engagements on prevention and intervention with Tribal Nations; and
- Recommendations for DHS to improve access to information or services relating to item four of the EO.

In preparation for this report, the Subcommittee was briefed by stakeholders, subject matter experts, and leaders from the DHS Blue Campaign, Center for Countering Human Trafficking, FEMA's IPAWS Program, and Homeland Security Investigations' (HSI) Shadow Wolves Unit. The Subcommittee also received briefings from the Alaskan Department of Public Safety, DOJ's Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) NamUs Program, and DOI's Missing and Murdered Unit (MMU). Members heard consistent themes, affirming the concerns presented at the outset of the tasking. Members identified limited communication & information sharing, the need for further education and awareness training, and data compilation and centralization as primary obstacles that require further attention to make a significant impact on the crisis of MMIP.

The Subcommittee has the following primary findings:

1. There is no officially designated centralized data collection point which diminishes the quality, timeliness, and success in tracking missing and murdered indigenous persons (MMIP) cases.
2. There is no efficient information sharing process between state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) law enforcement and public safety.
3. Tribes do not have equitable access to resources, information, and services.
4. Geographical and environmental factors contribute greatly to the number of missing and murdered indigenous people.

To address these findings, we make the following policy and legislative recommendations to DHS:

1. Create a designated and centralized standalone Tribal Nations Platform/Campaign for data collection and networking; one that is secure, current, near real time and is in line with today's technological standards.
2. Establish a component of the standalone Tribal Nation Platform that provides data analysis.

3. Establish uniform criteria for reporting requirements and a process of mandating reporting requirements for all missing persons.
4. Provide additional training to law enforcement and other stakeholders to support the adoption of new and existing information-capturing systems.
5. Implement a Whole Community Approach strategy to strengthen the prevention and mitigation of MMIP. Standup an awareness campaign to connect the law enforcement, SLTT officials, non-governmental organizations and all community stakeholders working in the MMIP realm to promote early intervention.
6. Improve victim and survivor services offered through DHS and federal partners by consolidating them under one platform.

## METHODOLOGY

In carrying out the Secretary's tasking, the Subcommittee met with subject matter experts at the federal and state level. Throughout September and October 2023, the subcommittee was briefed by the DHS Blue Campaign, Center for Countering Human Trafficking, Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS) Program, and Homeland Security Investigations' (HSI) Shadow Wolves Unit. The Subcommittee also received briefings from the Alaskan Department of Public Safety, the DOJ's Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) Program, and the DOI's Missing and Murdered Unit (MMU).

Furthermore, the Subcommittee reviewed data reports from the NamUs Program, as well as Requests for Information (RFIs) from FEMA IPAWS, Office of State and Local Law Enforcement (OSLLE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

## KEY FINDINGS

**Key Finding #1: There is no officially designated centralized data collection point which diminishes the quality, timeliness, and success in tracking missing and murdered indigenous persons (MMIP) cases.**

Tribes vary in their data collection and analysis processes when handling MMIP cases which leads to complications. Some Nations are equipped with their own law enforcement, while others rely on states or federal agencies, causing case management to lack consistency overall. Many cases make their way into the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)'s National Crime Information Center (NCIC), some to NamUs, and yet others do not. Consistency and overall continuity among data collection and compilation are evidently necessary.

Duplicative and regional data collection and storage methods causes cases to lack trustful and consistent data and real-time evaluation. As various tribal organizations evolve, their

sources of data can multiply. Multiple data sources can result in a host of complications and inefficiencies, ranging from inaccurate or duplicated data to incorrect filing of compliance information. Centralizing data sources across a platform can assure that Tribal Nations throughout the country have access to a common source of trusted data, allowing for increased productivity, optimized collaboration, and more confident decision-making. Centralizing entity data eliminates data silos by integrating all information into a single, shareable source. This minimizes the time spent reconciling competing data sets and reduces the inefficiencies caused by inaccurate or incomplete data. Centralized entity data increases the opportunities for collaboration and shared problem-solving across the platform because each division is equipped with a shared foundation of baseline knowledge. Bad data often accumulates in environments as multiple users interact with a variety of different data sources. This inevitably leads to inaccuracies and redundancies.

Additionally, centralizing data minimizes information silos, improves data quality, and makes it easier to see and predict the potential impact of emerging trends or proposed changes across different areas, agencies, tribal nations, initiatives, etc. It is critical to have the ability to access and analyze data near to real time as possible, allowing all levels of government and partners to make data-driven decisions that can be adjusted as needed. Examples of centralized data management systems include online database software, data warehouses, and data lakes. Centralizing data helps organizations streamline processes, improve efficiency, and make better-informed decisions.

A designated centralized data source is easier to maintain and keep clean, providing data that is verified and accurate. The process of cleaning data removes outdated entries and eliminates duplicate copies of files, categorizing information into usefully organized indexes. Data cleansing can redefine the current process and reveal opportunities for further integration. Most importantly, tribal nations and their partners can rest assured that the data is current, trustworthy, and can be used for day-to-day decisions and future objectives.

**Key Finding #2: There is no efficient information sharing process between SLTT law enforcement and public safety.**

Information sharing gaps, due to legal differences among SLTT law enforcement and jurisdiction differences between states, has severely impacted the resolution of many MMIP cases.<sup>1</sup> While the National Child Search Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5779, 5780) mandates that every missing child reported to law enforcement be immediately entered into NCIC, to date, there is no federal law requiring a law enforcement report be filed for anyone 21 years or older who goes missing, nor is there a mandate to enter the case into NamUs. Additionally, DHS resources like the Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT) Blue Campaign, a national awareness campaign, do not collect and compile data and statistics specifically on tribal nations and human trafficking. There is a gap or improvement opportunity around collecting relevant criminal data and data related to MMIP from Tribal Nations and

organizations. DHS can help eliminate this barrier through the creation of a law enforcement sensitive (LES) portal to alleviate the information sharing challenges, and better share time-sensitive information and threat intelligence, providing a trusted networking system for law enforcement to coordinate their efforts for both adult and youth MMIP cases.

Jurisdictional differences, tribes falling within multiple different state boundary lines, contribute to the discrepancies in solving MMIP cases. The variation between state agencies and their mandates to address missing persons cases contributes to data fragmentation, and inconsistencies. A federal law requiring information collection standardization among all missing persons cases could mandate uniformity, equitable response and services, and help to establish continuity among all MMIP cases nationally. Overall, Tribal Nations' investigating agencies supplied with the proper resources are best equipped to consistently handle casework and data processing of missing persons cases, so investing in information sharing services that support this process is most beneficial. Further discussion should be had to understand both the inefficiencies in the information sharing process and whether mandated standardization could help to resolve confusion in missing persons cases nationally.

**Key Finding #3: Tribes do not have equitable access to resources, information, and services.**

Resources such as training, education, funding, knowledge of networking opportunities, or consulting agencies support are made available to tribal nations, but guidance in finding these opportunities is not equitable among all tribes.

It is evident that many Tribal Nations do not share the same resources or partnerships that other Nations do, therein lies a gap in access to resources, information, and services. This is evident in the underutilization of the FEMA IPAWS system which was learned in briefings. While some Nations are utilizing the system effectively, many others are still either choosing to not use it or are simply unaware of its existence and benefits. A centralized platform offering resources available could help tribes to learn and have access to FEMA IPAWS.

Furthermore, access to information and services that address the strength of public safety in Indian Country is lacking, in part, due to equity. Specifically, tribes lack equity in access to systems that address public safety, which MMIP and its causation factors fall under. Examples are lack of adequate law enforcement coverage for jurisdiction size, lack of trained law enforcement, lack of adequate victims' services, lack of tribal judicial systems in some areas, lack of adequate social services for families, and lack of more consistent education and prevention efforts for those MMIP causation factors.

Joint missing persons investigation & search, rescue and recovery services and training are lacking in Indian country. Without the necessary resources, information, and services available, public safety for indigenous people is more severely hindered due to the additional

geographical and environmental obstacles these communities face. This will be addressed further in Key Finding number four.

Ultimately, for tribal nations to become more self-sufficient and resilient, accessibility to resources, information, and services must be equitable for all Nations.

**Key Finding #4: Geographical and environmental factors contribute greatly to the number of missing and murdered indigenous people.**

Through discussions with the Alaskan Department of Public Safety, we learned that a majority percentage of missing persons cases in Alaska are due to environmental factors such as weather, falling into water, and falling through ice, differing greatly from external factors or considerations of other missing persons cases such as human trafficking, domestic violence, runaways, drug and/or alcohol intoxication, and despondency. While still needing attention and resolution, the unknown threat of further violence that other MMIP cases pose, represents a different scenario altogether. This must be considered when formulating a response and search for the missing indigenous individuals.

Additionally, environmental factors beg the need for more specific intervention such as an aircraft for agencies handling cases in Alaska. In conjunction with the lack of infrastructure and housing for prospective officer candidates, the remote locations where officers are needed simply lack the necessities to host or house officers. The geography and terrain, combined with the vast area, create substantial hurdles in responding to incidents, especially in a timely manner.

In some Tribal communities, the international border poses a host of different challenges altogether. Often these challenges are unique to the community and haven't been considered when deciding how to address this problem set in certain communities. These geographical factors highlight how drastically different each Tribal Nation and their public safety issues are. A singular or umbrella approach is often not the best solution; there is a need to involve Tribal Nations when assessing individual challenges.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The recommendations of the MMIP Subcommittee fall into two general categories: recommendations on improving data collection, analysis, and information sharing, and strengthening prevention, early intervention, and victim and survivor services.

### **1) Improving Data Collection, Analysis, and Information Sharing**

**Recommendation #1: Create a designated and centralized standalone Tribal Nation Platform for data collection and networking; one that is secure, current, near real-time, and in line with today's technological standards.**

Create a standalone platform to serve as a unified location for MMIP data, statistics, and resources to be collected and housed. This web-based platform would be confidential and accessible to tribal nations to provide data, engage with federal agencies, and utilize resources across all levels of communities. Additionally, allocating separate areas for data on historical MMIP cases and current cases would be necessary. The centralized data process would not only be a source of unification for families but would reduce duplication of data and improve data accessibility, increase the efficiency of data processing and analysis, improve data quality and accuracy, provide a more user-friendly experience, increase the effectiveness of data-driven decision-making, and increase transparency and stakeholder awareness. The creation of a data management plan and data governance structure are also essential to the success of the centralized data platform; thus, we also recommend the following:

**a) Create a data management plan with defined processes and standards.**

The recommended networking platform, at the scale required, would require a high standard data management system. Data Management helps define processes and standards for managing and securing data, ensuring data integrity. The key components of a data management plan include defining the scope of the project, identifying data sources, establishing data quality standards, defining data access and security protocols, and developing data backup and disaster recovery plans to ensure that data is protected in case of a security breach or system failure.

**b) Work with DHS's Office of Intelligence & Analysis (I&A) and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to establish a data governance framework.**

Establishing a data governance framework is also critical for successful data centralization projects. This framework should include policies, procedures, and standards for managing data quality, security, and compliance. Assigning roles and responsibilities to individuals within the framework is also important to ensure accountability and consistency. The framework should enable consistent checks to monitor data quality, security, and compliance. Regular audits should be conducted to ensure compliance with legal and organizational standards. Additionally, the framework should include data monitoring, data lineage, catalogs, user permissions, and role-based access controls to manage access control and optimize role-based security.

**Recommendation #2: Establish a component of the standalone Tribal Nation Platform that provides data analysis.**

Establishing a central repository utilizing a website, database, or platform specific to solved cases is important especially at the tribal level, where records would be available to help with solving new cases by leveraging this data and information. A database that is

split up between "historical" cases and "current" cases would help us see visually if these efforts are having a positive impact or not or if there are areas for improvement. Segmenting the historical cases creates a more dedicated and refined approach to handling of the newer cases. Often the circumstances require a specific approach based upon the facts. Understanding and applying varied methodology to cases can help to yield the results that are sought respectively. A branch specifically for MMIP cases that is further subcategorized appropriately, will help to understand the parts of the crisis more thoroughly. While the topic of the MMIP branch merits further and deeper discussion, it cannot be denied that a major part of the platform would be the MMIP branch of the Tribal Public Safety Platform/Campaign.

**Recommendation #3: Establish uniform criteria for reporting requirements and a process of mandating reporting requirements for missing persons.**

All Missing persons should be entered in NCIC within one-to-two hours of report intake..<sup>ii</sup> We request that DHS take the initiative and make it a goal to have discussions at the Federal level to require states to report a missing person to all levels of government. This should be a requirement of agencies if they continue to have access to NCIC. Additionally, a mandate should be placed on law enforcement to implement reporting requirements and information collection process requirements. Accountability for this mandate should be required by the law enforcement office as well, including all SLTT partners as the burden should not be placed solely on Tribal Nations.

It is recommended that DHS mandate that all law enforcement receive reports of missing persons upon notification, and remove time reporting restrictions, including those at the federal, state, local and tribal levels. Additionally, it is recommended that all law enforcement have mandated reporting requirements including an efficient, effective information collection process that is equitable to all nationalities, races, and cultural backgrounds. This would help alleviate the burden that is solely placed on Tribal Nations currently and addresses those residing on reservations and off reservation lands in urban areas.

DHS can provide valuable resource support while ensuring that data stays secure when utilizing this new reporting system.

**Recommendation #4: Provide additional training to law enforcement and other stakeholders to support the adoption of new and existing information-capturing systems.**

Law enforcement and emergency management agencies should be equipped with additional training and support to understand how to collaborate to provide farther situational awareness to the public, stakeholders, and other agencies for missing persons. Examples of additional training include law enforcement public information officer (PIO)

training, mass notification system training for IPAWS, Incident Command System trainings from FEMA, Child Abduction Response Teams (CART) and Cultural Awareness Training for all Public Safety Agencies working with, on, or near tribal nations or tribal communities. Additional support services include networking to partner with neighboring agencies and task forces, sharing integrated community response plans, best preparedness and response practices, peer guidance and consulting, and immediate notification to MMU District Agents and area tribal reservations, especially if the missing person is Native American.

Some examples of services being offered for tribal communities are FEMA's ICS, IPAWS, Blue Campaign and others. It is further recommended that DHS provide Public Information Officer training for tribal Public Safety-related agencies. Tribes could benefit from FEMA IPAWS as a mass notification tool that can be placed with tribal Emergency Management and/or Law Enforcement. Greater push to provide education and awareness outreach on how IPAWS works to tribes. Provide existing examples of tribal nations who use it, with permission, with success in presentations to other tribes as liaisons.

Data that is entered into NCIC is not always entered into NamUs, a DOJ Data Collection Initiative. Implementing protocols at all levels to do both collectively through collaboration efforts and additions to the NCIC system. Provide a framework for local, tribal, county, and state law enforcement agencies to implement these changes with LE trainings and public awareness.

## **2) Strengthening Prevention, Early Intervention, and Victim and Survivor Services**

**Recommendation #5: Implement a Whole Community Approach strategy to strengthen the prevention and mitigation of MMIP. Standup an awareness campaign to connect law enforcement, SLTT officials, non-governmental organizations, and all community stakeholders working in the MMIP realm to promote proactive and consistent coordination and collaboration.**

### **a) Educate and share resources and services to better inform the whole of the community.**

It is recommended that DHS offer early prevention educational presentations on human trafficking and MMIP to all appropriate levels of education. These presentations will be culturally appropriate and offered at the beginning and end of each academic school year. Experts from Homeland Security Investigations should collaborate with tribes' educational institutions at all levels to share their insight and expertise on the areas where Tribal members face threats including human trafficking, drugs, and predatory crimes against children. The presentations would be both in person giving the audience a chance to build foundational relationships with tribes

and their communities as well as extend to video and web-based, ensuring the messaging reaches the maximum audience.

Dedicate more resources to awareness of MMIP in tribes and their neighboring communities to combat overall public safety concerns. There is a need for a whole community approach for response and mitigation of missing persons in Tribal Nations. Support a collaborative planning session to update progressive policy changes, and build stronger, lasting relationships at all levels of government with community needs being at the forefront. Comprehensive support is needed from all law enforcement stakeholders and various levels of government. Agencies at the state, local and federal levels are not aware of the many outstanding initiatives being worked on by their counterparts in the MMIP space. This causes inefficiency and there needs to be one designated and centralized agency or division to bring everyone together in coordination, collaboration, and provide equal representation.

There must be a priority focus on all phases of the MMIP case lifecycle: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. If the MMIP Public Health/Public Safety Crisis is going to come to an end in our lifetimes, DHS and its partners must not only fully support more education, outreach, and equitable access to resources, but consistently maintain a proactive stance in their responses.

**b) Reinforce partnerships between tribal communities and DHS and foster stronger partnerships between tribal and state and local governments.**

First, the Department should continue to raise awareness of its services provided to tribal communities by offering more listening sessions, creating additional resource guides, and consolidating the DHS website on materials directed towards tribal communities. Furthermore, in line with DHS and FEMA's strategy to build a resilient nation, we recommend tribal communities are brought to the table when discussing emergency preparedness federal funding accessibility. DHS should collaborate with its federal partners to communicate the efforts being taken across DHS to combat human trafficking and MMIP and move forward with a whole-of-government approach to make sure funding needs are met.

Second, DHS should provide more resources for tribes to strengthen relationships with their neighboring state and local communities. Continue facilitating outreach to state governments for increased participation in DHS-led taskforces on tribal communities, as more concentrated dialogue between tribes and states will help alleviate friction between them. Homeland security and resiliency is not restricted to a specific community or state, it is a whole of community endeavor that can be supplemented by more conducive government-to-government relationships and collaboration in sharing resources for addressing the overall need to improve public safety in Indian Country.

While it is not in the authorities of DHS to enforce increased communication and collaboration between states and respective tribal communities, it can be noted that by rebuilding these working relationships, with more whole of community resources, a potential positive impact would allow tribal nations to have a seat at the state legislature when deciding on revisions or proposals of new laws that relate to public safety, health and human services matters, such as criminal codes, education, judicial, emergency services, medical and healthcare. Any changes at the state level must be equitable to the whole population within that state and be sensitive to the ongoing public health/public safety crises of MMIP nationwide.

As outlined in Key Finding #4, there are many factors that lead to missing indigenous people, including specifically, geography and climate. The Department can assist geographically diverse areas such as Alaska, with funding for housing, aircraft and transportation support for law enforcement officers, and outreach to assist with hiring law enforcement in remote areas. For example, supplemental aircraft and air support to aid not just the tribes, but other air support entities such as the United States Coast Guard, and state in managing a coordinated and concerted air effort in regions where this is applicable. Additionally, facilitation for partnerships with other organizations such as DoD and various Search and Rescue and Recovery Organizations in these deficient areas for equipment, training, and resources where collaborative efforts benefits all parties would be welcomed in strengthening MMIP efforts.

**c) Create a board of participating Tribal Nation members in collaboration with DHS partnership, to address public safety concerns and the crisis of MMIP.**

Create a board of appointed tribal membership of those participating nations with DHS partnership that are using the recommended MMIP platform, to protect the privacy and sovereign rights of tribal nations. This recommended board will be created and appointed by an already established group of those representing Native tribes to encourage Tribal nations to participate in the recommended MMIP platform. This board of appointed tribal membership will strive to regularly extend the invitation to tribal nations not already participating by promoting consistent communication, resources, and/or helpful data and statistics. This board would provide directional guidance to DHS and the designated platform that is being recommended.

Establish an incident management system across the United States that moves towards all-hazards incident management. While there is a policy mandate already in place for DHS department to utilize NIMS, the scalable, flexible system of the NIMS Incident Command System is a strong option for local, tribal, county, state public safety agencies and community stakeholders as a resource tool. The benefits of applying FEMA's National Incident Management System (NIMS) ICS overall for efficient, safe, and effective community response to missing persons.<sup>-iii</sup>

**Recommendation #6: Improve victim and survivor services offered through DHS and federal partners by consolidating them under one platform.**

Support the long-term funding of a MMIP Prevention Specialist Program, providing more resources to law enforcement agencies with tools for education to local, tribal educational institutions. The program's messaging would support the Blue Campaign as they already offer training, scheduled events, resources, and clearly defining human trafficking for the public around human trafficking. The specialist, potentially a MMIP survivor, would liaise with HHS on initiatives relating to MMIP causation factors, with priority on prevention, advocacy, and awareness to help provide more protection to vulnerable community members. We recommend adding funding guidelines to the existing Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP) or create a new grant. Partnering with organizations like the Strong Hearts Native Helpline to promote culturally aware resources and streamline messaging campaigns. Centralizing a wide variety of resources will increase overall public safety and proactively address the disproportionate rates of violence and crime in Tribal Nations, help to get victims and survivors the critical services they need to heal, and put an end to the generational trauma their families and descendants might face without such encompassing support.

## CONCLUSION

It is essential that there is buy-in among Tribal Nations to support a DHS initiated Tribal Nation Networking Platform. If we are to recommend and ask for DHS to partner with Tribal Nations by building a platform under its umbrella, we must have Nations prepared to join and participate in such an endeavor. Through the creation of an appointed Tribal membership among the participating Nations, the Nation-to-Nation support will help to assuage any concerns among Nations and dispel any notion that this is only a federally driven initiative. Such a platform and initiative will require funding, staffing, and maintenance, in addition to the buy-in from Tribal Nations. The request for a DHS-led initiative in collaboration and partnership with Tribes, even having appointed Tribal members with expertise relevant to the initiative to sit on the board conducting oversight of the platform, is something that can benefit every participant. The platform could be a Tribal Homeland Security Public Safety initiative, charged with data collection and publication as well as resource portal for training and education, and a Nation-to-Nation to Federal partner site to enhance the capabilities of Tribal Nations in addressing their own public safety.

As for DHS assistance, beyond the partnering and building of a platform, utilization of existing unfractured and initiatives such as modeling of the Blue Campaign, inclusion of their "If You See Something, Say Something Campaign<sup>®</sup>", tapping into the Homeland Security Information Network will allow real-time sharing of intelligence for Tribal law enforcement and partners of the platform. More sensitive data could be sourced through the Homeland Secure Data Network for participating partners of the platform. The Multi-State Information Sharing

Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) is yet another resource to share and acquire time sensitive alerts and information. The “SchoolSafety.gov” and the School Security Assessment Tool can also be tapped for inclusion into the public safety portion of the platform. All resources that DHS and its partner agencies offers can be shared collectively through a platform intended to increase and build safety in Tribal communities. When presented in a place where partnership is sought and trust is built between Tribal Nations and federal partners, the resources can have a much larger impact and relationships can be forged. A DHS initiated, Tribal Nation Public Safety Campaign/Platform can be the neutral ground for building that trust and those relationships that can change the future of public safety in Indian Country. The idea is both grand in scale but simple in concept, it most certainly merits further active planning discussions and thought among anyone who can and sees the importance to build upon the idea of establishing greater public safety among Tribal Nations, while attacking the crisis of MMIP at the same time. By addressing MMIP and Public Safety of Indian Country; we address the past, present, and future of all Tribal Nations.

## APPENDIX 1: TASKING LETTER

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*Secretary*  
**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
Washington, DC 20538



**Homeland  
Security**

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Peter Yucupicio  
Chair, Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council

CC: Secretary Kimberly Hampton  
Vice Chair, Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council

FROM: Alejandro N. Mayorkas  
Secretary

SUBJECT: **Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council (THSAC)  
Taskings**

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Thank you for the thoughtful discussion and dialogue during the first meeting of the Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council (THSAC) on February 14, 2023. The expertise, insight, and recommendations of the THSAC members are critical to ensuring that we meet the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) mission of keeping the homeland safe.

I respectfully request this advisory body form three subcommittees to provide findings and recommendations in the following issue areas of our work:

1. How the Department can more effectively support cybersecurity protection and services to Indian Country.
2. How the Department can enhance its efforts in support of Executive Order 14053 *Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native American and Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People*.
3. How the Department can improve accessibility and remove barriers for Indian Country to access grant funding.

Through these taskings, DHS seeks to improve Indian Country's ability to assist in securing the homeland with more effective cybersecurity, enhanced public safety, and more equitable grant management. These taskings will simultaneously provide DHS with increased positive engagement with tribes and further the Department's compliance with the federal government's treaty and trust responsibilities to tribes.

These three issues mirror the concerns expressed to the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) by Tribal Nations and tribal organizations and associations in various settings, including formal tribal consultations, tribal engagement meetings, tribal conferences, and publications. IGA has been made aware of several cyber-attacks on Tribal Nations. For instance, during one meeting, a Tribe described a cyber-attack that closed the only hospital in their remote town. Regarding Missing or Murdered Indigenous People, several tribes and organizations have grave concerns about this crisis and the need for continued work and collaboration between government and law enforcement agencies. Finally, tribes often mention grant management as an area of concern central to homeland security. For instance, IGA met with a tribe that expressed concerns about a lack of equity with the application for FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program.

There is a lot of work to be done in these areas and these issues are described in more detail below. I request that the THSAC submit its findings and key recommendations to me no later than 120 days from the date of this memorandum.

Thank you for your work and dedication on these important matters, your service on the THSAC, and your service protecting Indian Country and the nation.

### **Cybersecurity**

Within the United States, the federal government has trust and treaty responsibilities with more than 570 federally recognized tribes, each their own sovereign nation with ranging capabilities and vulnerabilities. Due to this uneven distribution of cyber proficiencies, ransomware and malware attacks on Tribal Nations have significantly increased. These attacks have the capacity to expose further external systems and infrastructure to attack. The Department wants to ensure cybersecurity resources are widely deployed and available to all stakeholders. This includes the sharing of best practices and providing expertise to those with less developed cybersecurity infrastructure.

The THSAC will form a subcommittee to engage with subject matter experts and provide recommendations for how the Department can address cyber vulnerabilities within Indian Country. Specifically, the subcommittee will:

- a. Review the current cyber capabilities of Indian Country, including the following:
  - Governance structure,
  - Level of cyber expertise,
  - History of ransomware attacks,
  - Vulnerability gaps, and

- Any other factors that the Council believes would be beneficial for the Department's awareness when drafting new policies or programs related to providing cybersecurity support. And,
- b. Based on the review, provide actionable recommendations on how the Department, within its authority and capabilities, can more effectively support, prevent, and respond to the vulnerabilities identified.

### **Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People**

The safety and well-being of all Native Americans is a top priority for both the Biden Administration and the Department. Native Americans face excessively high levels of violence and are victims of violent crime at a rate much higher than the national average.<sup>1</sup> Under Executive Order 14053 (EO), the Department is tasked with providing support to the Departments of Justice, Interior, and Health and Human Services in their efforts to address the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous people. The EO specifically highlights the Department's role in the following areas:

1. *Coordination of a Federal Law Enforcement Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Native Americans.*
2. *Supporting Tribal and Other Non-Federal Law Enforcement Efforts to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Native Americans.*
3. *Improving Data Collection, Analysis, and Information Sharing.*
4. *Strengthening Prevention, Early Intervention, and Victim and Survivor Services.*

The THSAC will form a subcommittee to engage with subject matter experts and provide recommendations on the Department's support in EO 14053, with stakeholder feedback and inclusive of potential legislative reforms. Specifically, the subcommittee will:

- a. Provide an independent assessment of DHS's current actions relating to item 3, *Improving Data Collection, Analysis, and Information Sharing*. This assessment should include but not be limited to:
  - Collection of relevant criminal data and data related to missing and murdered indigenous peoples (MMIP) from Indian Country,
  - Review and assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department's information sharing to enhance the security and preparedness within Indian Country. This includes recommendations for new information-sharing mechanisms, whether via platforms or networks, or by creating a new process that

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Fairchild, D.G., M.W. Fairchild, and S. Stoner, "Prevalence of Domestic Violence Among Women Seeking Routine Care in a Native American Health Care Facility," *American Journal of Public Health* 88 (1998): 1515–1517; Oetzel, J., and B. Duran, "Intimate Partner Violence in American Indian and/or Alaska Native Communities: A Social Ecological Framework of Determinants and Interventions," *Journal of the Center for American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research* 11 (2004): 49–68; Robin, R.W., B. Chester, and J.K. Rasmussen, "Intimate Violence in a Southwestern American Indian Tribal Community," *Cultural Diversity and Mental Health* 4 (4) (1998): 335–344.

- will effectively communicate threat information and other relevant federal resources to Native Americans, and
- Outline further areas in which FEMA can promote its Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS) in relation to cases of MMIP.
- b. Provide an independent assessment of DHS's current actions relating to item 4, *Strengthening Prevention, Early Intervention, and Victim and Survivor Services*. This assessment should include but not be limited to:
  - Distribution of education, awareness, and training materials from the Blue Campaign to Indian Country,
  - Engagements on prevention and intervention with Indian Country, and
  - Recommendations for DHS to improve access to information or services relating to item 4.

### **Accessibility of DHS Grants**

The Department seeks to build resilient communities by offering tools to help them prepare for, mitigate, and respond to disasters. Many of these resources are given through competitive grant opportunities within FEMA, such as the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), and many more. Within Indian Country, there is a wide breadth of capabilities in emergency management services. Some tribes have very robust emergency management offices that can navigate the grant process, from application writing to distribution of funds, to reporting on progress. On the other hand, other tribes may only have a single dedicated Emergency Manager who serves in more than one role and does not have the resources or the manpower to take advantage of DHS grant opportunities. This disparity creates a very challenging arena for tribes to navigate.

The THSAC will form a subcommittee to engage with subject matter experts and provide recommendations on grant accessibility, with consideration of stakeholder feedback and include of potential legislative reforms. Specifically, the subcommittee will:

- a. Provide recommendations for how the Department can most effectively and appropriately address barriers to access or other challenges for tribes in the grant application process, and;
- b. Provide recommendations for how the Department's existing resources can more equitably meet the needs of Indian Country. This includes any suggested legislative and programmatic changes to congressional authorities outlining access to those grant opportunities.

## APPENDIX 2: SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS AND OTHER WITNESSES

Name	Title	Organization
Erica Reid	Senior Engagement Manager	Blue Campaign, DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking
LaTonia Whitsett	Management Program Analyst	DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking
Carmin DeRose	Division Chief	DHS Homeland Security Investigations
Tammy M. Breitzke	Supervisory Special Agent	DHS Homeland Security Investigations
Lucas Zarwell	Office Director	Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences, DOJ
Christine Crossland	Senior Social Science Analyst	Office on Violence and Victimization Prevention, DOJ
Charles Heurich	Physical Scientist	Office of Investigative and Forensic Science, DOJ
Austin McDaniel	Director of Communications	Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Department of Public Safety
Malia Miller	Missing Persons Clearinghouse Manager	Missing Persons Clearinghouse, Alaska Department of Public Safety
Pamela Holstein-Wallace	Program Analyst	IPAWS, FEMA, DHS
Kelbie Kennedy	National Tribal Affairs Advocate	Office of External Affairs, FEMA, DHS
Thomas Haid	Group Supervisor, Assistant Special Agent in Charge (SAC)	Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
Leo Lamas	Special Agent in Charge (SAC)	Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
Greg Paris	Resident Agent in Charge	Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
Marcelino Toersbijns	Unit Chief	Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Justice Services (OJS) Missing and Murdered Unit (MMU)

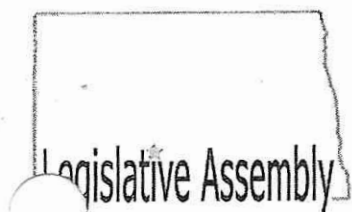
## APPENDIX 3: REFERENCES

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<sup>i</sup> **Department of Justice: Guide to Developing a Tribal Community Response Plan for Community Response Plan for Missing Person Cases**; See Department of Justice's guide with a set of guidance documents for Tribal governments and U.S. Attorney's Offices, working with other partners, to develop a Tribal community response plan to respond to missing person cases that are tailored to the specific needs, resources, and culture of a specific Tribal community

<sup>ii</sup> **Reporting requirement for missing children, 34 U.S.C. § 41307**; See 34 U.S.C. United States Code, 2020 Edition Title 34 - CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT Subtitle IV - Criminal Records and Information, CHAPTER 413 - CRIME REPORTS AND STATISTICS, Sec. 41307 Reporting requirement for missing children, From the U.S. Government Publishing Office, [www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov)

<sup>iii</sup> **FEMA - Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Course | IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100**; ICS provides a way for all stakeholders to come together to safely but aggressively initiate a missing persons response within their communities by adhering to implementing an orderly, systematic planning process, implementing a common, flexible, predesigned management structure, fosters cooperation between diverse disciplines and agencies, and essentially provides a common "language" for all to speak when needing to accomplish such important objectives. ICS training is also cost effective, widely accessible, and has been used with success for such purposes already among several tribal nations. ICS principles: Establishment and Transfer of Command • Management by Objectives • Unified Command • ICS Management Functions • Organizational Flexibility • Unity and Chain of Command • Span of Control • Incident Action Plans • Comprehensive Resources Management • Common Terminology • Integrated Communications • Personnel Accountability



# North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Senator Richard Marcellais

District 9  
301 Laite Loop NE  
Belcourt, ND, 58316-3877  
[rmarcellais@ndlegis.gov](mailto:rmarcellais@ndlegis.gov)

## COMMITTEES:

Finance and Taxation  
Agriculture and Veterans Affairs

Chairman, Wobbema members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee for the record my name is Richard Marcellais, North Dakota State Senator in District 9.

Today I am here to testify in favor of HB 1199, relating to Missing & Murdered Indigenous People.

On behalf of all the Missing & Murdered Indigenous People, it's with retreat that I speak to your on this very important topic today. I could talk about the Savanna's Act that was passed by the Federal Government, but it would not bring back the missing or murdered love ones.

"The Missing & Murdered Indigenous peoples crisis is centuries in the making and will take a focused effort and time to unravel the many treads that contributed to the alarming rates of these cases. But I believe now is the time to correct this problem. We have a Governor and legislator is prioritizing this. And we can't turn back now. Today I present the following individuals missing & murdered:

Ms. Jayden Rose Marcellais age 27 on November 11, 2020 in Minot, ND.

Mr. Petite Belgrade age 38 on September 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Belcourt, ND.

Ms. Stella Trottier Gaves, age 40 on September 17, 2010 in Belcourt, ND.

Ms. Monica Berliner Wickre, age 42 or 43 on June 16, 1993 in Aberdeen, SD.

Mr. Glenn Longie, missing since 2020.

What I am going to speak on is what we need to do in the future in the State of North Dakota. All five (5) Tribal Nation along with the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission Office needs to develop plans to protect our Indigenous People.

These plans would include:

- Combating human trafficking in Indian Country;
- Call for permanent federal, state tribal law enforcement in Indian Country;
- Create an Amber Alert System in Indian Country;
- Protect Native American women from violence;

- Introduce legislation to develop a problem solving task force with funding;
- Keep communities strong and safe

These plans should be incorporated in the five (5) Tribal Nations educational systems so our students learn at a young age. I am will to assist with developing these plans along with the North Dakota five (5) Tribal Nations.

On some reservations, Native women are murdered at ten times the national average, and 84% of Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. In 2016, North Dakota had 125 reported cases of missing Native women according to the National Crime Information Center, but numbers are likely much higher as cases are often under reported and data isn't officially collected.

It's time to give a voice to these voiceless Indigenous People that matter. It's time to bring their perpetrators to justice and give a voice to the families who are struggling even today, sometimes decades later.

As a proud Native American Vietnam Veteran this reminds me of our Veterans killed in and missing in action during the war where either their bodies were not found or who knows who killed them, maybe that's why former U.S. Senator John McCain former prisoner of war god bless his soul helped introduce and got signed into law to expand Amber alert warnings in Indian Country.

I also have a video from the August 17, 2021, Tribal/State Relations meeting at the Turtle Mountain Community College where family members testified on their Missing & Murdered family members. It's approximately 30 minutes long if your interested in viewing the testimony.

"Yes we can make a difference for our Indigenous People" Thank you very much and God Bless all of you.

Chairman Wobbema members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee I ask for your positive vote on HB 1199. I will try an answer any questions you may have.

## Elick Funeral Home

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### Jayden Rose Marcellais

( June 07, 1993 - November 11, 2020 )

Jayden Rose Marcellais, age 27, of Belcourt, ND passed away on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 in Minot, ND. Wiigigabawitow Migiz Ilcwe, "Stands with Eagle Woman"



Jayden Rose Marcellais was born on June 7, 1993 in Grand Forks, ND to Kevin Keplin and Angel (Marcellais)

Gladue. Jayden was raised in Fargo, ND, until the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She then moved to Belcourt where she attended middle and high school. She graduated from Turtle Mountain Community High School in 2011, where she participated in volleyball and basketball. Jayden furthered her education at Turtle Mountain Community College, where she earned a 9-month phlebotomy certificate.

Jayden was very outgoing and enjoyed spending time with her friends. Her laugh and smile were infectious because Jayden had the best sense of humor. Her family and friends lovingly remember her for her "blonde moments" and her favorite meal of noodles and soy sauce. Jayden worked jobs at N8's, The Viking, and Buffalo Wild Wings. She was the loving mother of two wonderful boys, Elijah Knox (8) and Matthew Roman (5). Jayden's boys were the light of her life and they will miss her dearly. She took pride in her appearance and she always made sure her makeup was perfect. Jayden enjoyed being on her phone and her computer. She also collected items representing her favorite basketball team, the Chicago Bulls. Jayden spent a lot of time with her brothers, Dylan and Kalvin.

Jayden is survived by her sons, Elijah and Matthew; her parents Angel and Travis Gladue and Kevin and Kelly Keplin; brothers, Dylan Gladue, Kalvin Gladue, Kolton Keplin, and Kooper Keplin; sisters, Kwade and Kobi Keplin; grandparents, Roman and Theresa Marcellais, Lena Enno, Howard and Bernie Davis, Jeannie Poitra, and Gary Gladue; uncles, RT (Sherry) Marcellais, Lucas (Rhawnie) Marcellais, Kyle (Cindy) Keplin, Riel DeCoteau, Riley DeCoteau, and Kory Gladue; aunts, Jessica (Dustin) Zaste, Kimberly Keplin, and Ashtynn Gladue; Godparents, Jessica Zaste and Kyle Keplin, and Ruth Carrington and Jon Jon Keplin; and many special cousins.

Jayden was preceded in death by her great maternal grandparents, Frank and Emma (LaFountain) Enno and Joseph "Zeke" and Clara (Champagne) Marcellais, great paternal grandparents, George and Eva (Laverdure) Jeanotte and Louis and Katherine (Delorme) Keplin, and paternal grandfather, Melvin Keplin.

Casket Bearers are Joshua Keplin, Trentten Keplin, Ryder Keplin, William Marcellais, Jordan Marcellais, and Kolton Keplin. Honorary Bearers are all family and friends including, Shanyce Zerr, Kira Champagne, Jotannah Morin, Stephanie Hunt, Amanda Hall, Drew Parisien, Gerianne Brunelle, Bryce Monette, Shodiah LaVallie, Bailey Carrington, Taylor Marcellais, Summer Marcellais, Marc Marcellais, Clarissa Morin, and Andrew Charbonneau. Music by Chad Marcellais. Pall placed by Kolton, Kwade, Kobi, Dylan, Calvin, and Kooper.

A visitation will be from 1:00 to 3:00 PM on Friday, November 20, 2020 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, St. John, ND with a Funeral Mass at 3:00 PM. Father Richard Fineo presiding. Burial will follow funeral services at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Belcourt, ND.

Elick Funeral Home, Rolla, ND.

*"Petie"*  
*Carl Peter Belgarde*

Carl Peter "Petie" Belgarde the son of Beverly Gourneau and Mort Belgarde was born on Sept. 1, 1972 in Belcourt. He went home Wed. Sept 8, 2010 in Belcourt at the age of 38.

Petie grew up in Belcourt ND graduated TMCHS in 1992. He worked at Jollies in the bakery while in Belcourt, ND. He moved to Grand Forks, ND where He was Food and Beverage/ Catering Manager at the West Ward Ho. He then moved to Fargo to be Catering Manager at Radisson in Fargo, ND. He was recertified CNA and was furthering his education in Belcourt to become a Radiologist.

He loved spending time with friends and family. He loved camping and spent a lot of time with his special friend Robert. He also loved his cats. He has three of his own but when not with them he foster parented for PAWS. Petie loved taking pictures and couldn't wait to have them developed so he could surround himself with those memories. Petie's love for life was contagious and his infectious laugh would quickly fill a room. Petie was always willing to help you, no matter what the project was he always gave his best. He was always there for his friends and family and will be missed immensely.

Survivors include: His Mother Beverly Gourneau, sister Lori Morin, special friend Robert Coons, 2 Nieces, RaeAnn (Brandon Davis) Morin and Jordan Thomas 2 nephews, Isaiah Thomas and Trevor Morin 2 great nephews Brandon Davis Jr and Desmond Joel Davis, close cousins Susie (Adam) Belgarde, Jonie (Russell) Barton, of Fargo ND Lenny (Jerelyn) Belgarde, of Rolette ND, Daryl Belgarde of Belcourt and Tina Rosenthal of Fargo ND.

Petie was preceded in death by his Father Mort Belgarde His Grandparents Joseph (Mary) Belgarde, Gilbert (Florence) Gourneau

*Until we meet again, may God  
Hold you in the palm of his hand.*



In Loving Memory  
of  
*"Petie"*  
*Carl Peter Belgarde*

September 1, 1972  
September 8, 2010

## *Stella Marie Trottier-Graves*

Stella Marie Trottier-Graves was born March 14, 1970 in Belcourt, ND to Joseph 'Buzzy' and Pauline (Desjarlais) Trottier. She attended Turtle Mountain Community Schools and graduated from the Turtle Mountain Community High School in May of 1988.

She attended Bismarck Junior College, MSU-Bottineau, and Minot State University. While attending school and living in Minot, she met and married Kenneth Graves July 17, 1994 and had two daughters and one son during their marriage; Rayanna(12), Leigha (8), and Kaden(4). While married to Ken, Stella lived in Florida, Germany, Japan, and Arizona. Stella moved back to Belcourt in July of 2009 and attended Turtle Mountain Community College.

Stella loved being a mother and her children were her biggest joy. She loved to listen to her daughter, Rayanna, play piano; watching Leigha play dress up and laughing at her zest for life; and see her only son discover and explore his surroundings.

Stella enjoyed being with her family and many friends; especially visiting with her brothers and listening to their music. Stella loved to laugh, tease, and be surrounded by people who loved her.

Stella is preceded in death by her father Joseph 'Buzzy' Trottier.

Stella is survived by her mother Pauline(Desjarlais) Trottier; and her five brothers; Bryne(Cheryl)Trottier, Williston, ND; Richard 'Blue Eyes' (Annette) Trottier, Williston, ND; Eugene (Roxanne) Trottier, Belcourt, ND; Joseph 'Joe' (Marla) Trottier, Dunseith, ND; and Leslie (Jen)Trottier, Williston, ND.

Stella left behind her companion, Clark Fox, who loved her and enriched her life.

Stella will always be remembered and deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

*Until we meet again. may God  
Hold you in the palm of his hand.*

## *In Loving Memory of*



*Stella Marie Trottier-Graves*

*March 14, 1970  
September 17, 2010*

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Workforce Development Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1199  
3/27/2025

Relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

10:17 a.m. Chairman Wobbema called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Wobbema, Vice-Chairman Axtman, Senator Boschee, Senator Larson, Senator Powers.

### Discussion Topics:

- Federally Recognized Indian Nations
- Native American Children in foster care

10:17 a.m. Chairman Wobbema opened discussion on amendment for removal of definitions.

10:26 a.m. Senator Boschee Moved Amendment LC#25.0199.02001.

10:26 a.m. Senator Axtman seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Mike Wobbema	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	Y
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Michelle Powers	Y

Motion Passed 5-0-0

10:27 a.m. Senator Axtman moved Do Pass as Amended and rerefer to appropriations.

10:27 a.m. Senator Larson seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Mike Wobbema	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	Y
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Michelle Powers	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Senator Axtman will carry the bill.

10:29 p.m. Chairman Wobbema closed the hearing.

*Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk*

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

3/27/25 VC  
1-F6

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1199**

Introduced by

Representatives Holle, Davis, Finley-DeVille, Brown, Frelich, Grueneich, Porter

Senators Braunberger, Cory, Patten, Marcellais

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the collection of data on missing persons and the missing indigenous  
3 people task force; to amend and reenact section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
4 relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative  
5 management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to  
6 provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

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

- 8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **54-12-34. Criminal justice data information sharing system.**

- 11 1. The attorney general shall maintain a criminal justice data information sharing system  
12 within the bureau of criminal investigation for the exchange of criminal justice data  
13 information by judicial, law enforcement, and emergency services agencies, and the  
14 department of transportation. Only an authorized individual employed by a criminal  
15 justice agency as defined in section 12-60-16.1, the department of transportation, a  
16 state court, or the department of emergency services or any other individual approved  
17 by the attorney general or the attorney general's designee may access the system.  
18 For access to the criminal justice data information sharing system, an individual shall  
19 undergo a criminal history background check, including a fingerprint check, and meet  
20 eligibility access criteria in accordance with the rules adopted under this section.

- 1        2. The criminal justice data information sharing system may be accessed only in  
2        accordance with rules adopted under this section. Any law enforcement record in the  
3        possession of the attorney general through the criminal justice data information  
4        sharing system is an exempt record. Criminal justice data information about an offense  
5        committed by a child if the offense has not been transferred under section 27-20.4-21  
6        to another court having jurisdiction of the offense and information about a child victim  
7        or witness is confidential.
- 8        3. The attorney general shall provide staff to maintain the criminal justice data  
9        information system and provide administrative support for the advisory board.
- 10       4. A criminal justice information advisory board must be appointed, consisting of:  
11       a. The chief justice of the supreme court or the chief justice's designee.  
12       b. The director of the department of emergency services or the director's designee.  
13       c. The director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation or the director's  
14       designee.  
15       d. The superintendent of the state highway patrol or the superintendent's designee.  
16       e. The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, who is the chairman of the  
17       advisory board.  
18       f. The chief information officer of the state or the chief information officer's  
19       designee.  
20       g. The director of the department of transportation or the director's designee.  
21       h. A representative of a city police department, appointed by the attorney general  
22       from a list of two or more nominees from the North Dakota chiefs of police  
23       association.  
24       i. A representative of a county sheriff's office, appointed by the attorney general  
25       from a list of two or more nominees from the North Dakota sheriffs and deputies  
26       association.  
27       j. A state's attorney, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more  
28       nominees from the North Dakota state's attorney's association.  
29       k. A city government representative, appointed by the attorney general from a list of  
30       two or more nominees from the league of cities.

- 1 I. A county government representative, appointed by the attorney general from a
- 2 list of two or more nominees from the association of counties.
- 3 ~~m. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive~~
- 4 ~~director's designee.~~
- 5 ~~n. The chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, or the chairman's designee.~~
- 6 ~~o. The chairman of the Spirit Lake Tribe, or the chairman's designee.~~
- 7 ~~p. The chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, or~~
- 8 ~~the chairman's designee.~~
- 9 ~~q. The chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, or the~~
- 10 ~~chairman's designee.~~
- 11 ~~r. The chairman of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse~~
- 12 ~~Reservation, or chairman's designee.~~
- 13 5. Advisory board members who are not permanent full-time state employees are entitled
- 14 to compensation of seventy-five dollars per day and mileage and expenses as
- 15 provided by law for state employees. With the exception of the chief of the bureau of
- 16 criminal investigation, advisory board members appointed under this section serve
- 17 staggered three-year terms.
- 18 6. The attorney general, after consultation with the advisory board, shall adopt rules to
- 19 establish eligibility for access to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to
- 20 implement the collection, storage, and sharing of criminal justice information and the
- 21 systems necessary to perform those functions; and to address the operation of the
- 22 advisory board.
- 23 ~~7. The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users~~
- 24 ~~to enter missing person information in accordance with rules established by the~~
- 25 ~~bureau of criminal investigation. Missing person information, including demographic~~
- 26 ~~data related to indigenous people, which is entered by an authorized user or made~~
- 27 ~~available to an authorized user by a federally recognized tribe in this state must be~~
- 28 ~~included in the repository. Records under this subsection are exempt records that may~~
- 29 ~~be disclosed only in accordance with bureau of criminal investigation rules.~~

30 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
31 and enacted as follows:

**Missing indigenous people task force - Membership - Duties - Collection of data on missing persons - Continuing appropriation - Legislative management report.**

1. There is created a missing indigenous people task force. The attorney general shall serve as the chairman of the task force and the attorney general's office shall provide staff services for the task force.
2. The task force shall meet at least once each quarter.
3. The task force membership must include the following members:
  - a. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
  - b. The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, or the chief's designee;
  - c. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee;
  - d. The superintendent of the state highway patrol, or the superintendent's designee;  
and
  - e. A representative from each of the federally recognized Indian nations, tribes, or bands in this state, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more nominees from the chairman of each tribe.
4. While respecting the government-to-government relationship between the state and each tribe, the primary duties of the task force are to:
  - a. Identify jurisdictional barriers between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and community agencies;
  - b. Identify causes that contribute to missing and murdered indigenous people and make recommendations to federally recognized tribes in the state to reduce cases of missing and murdered indigenous people;
  - c. Identify strategies to improve interagency communication, cooperation, and collaboration to remove jurisdictional barriers and increase reporting and investigation of missing indigenous people; and
  - d. Administer the missing indigenous people grant fund.
5. The task force shall submit a report of its activities, findings, and any recommendations to the legislative management by August first of each year. The report must include:

- 1           a. The number of indigenous individuals reported missing in the missing person
- 2           repository;
- 3           b. The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing person
- 4           repository;
- 5           c. The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing
- 6           indigenous people grant fund;
- 7           d. The number of missing indigenous individuals searched for and recovered;
- 8           e. The number of missing indigenous individuals entries into the missing person
- 9           repository by year;
- 10          f. An analysis by year of the characteristics of missing indigenous people, including
- 11          age, gender, child protective services involvement status, foster case status,
- 12          duration of time missing, and estimated related cause;
- 13          g. The number of actively missing indigenous people by year;
- 14          h. A description of the activities and progress related to improving interagency
- 15          communication, cooperation, and collaboration and removing interjurisdictional
- 16          barriers; and
- 17          i. Any other information the task force finds relevant to the task force's mission.
- 18        6. The task force may make recommendations to federal, state, and local agencies in
- 19        carrying out the task force's duties.
- 20        7. Money in the missing indigenous people grant fund is appropriated on a continuing
- 21        basis to the task force for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally
- 22        recognized Indian nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find
- 23        missing indigenous people. The director of the office of management and budget shall
- 24        transfer any funds remaining in the missing indigenous people grant fund after July 31,
- 25        2035, to the general fund.
- 26        8. The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users
- 27        to enter missing person information in accordance with rules established by the
- 28        bureau of criminal investigation. Missing person information, including demographic
- 29        data related to indigenous people, which is entered by an authorized user or made
- 30        available to an authorized user by a federally recognized tribe in this state must be

1           included in the repository. Records under this subsection are exempt records that may  
2           be disclosed only in accordance with bureau of criminal investigation rules.

3           **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - TRANSFER - MISSING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE GRANT**

4           **PROGRAM FUND.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state  
5           treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of the sum as may be  
6           necessary, which the office of management and budget shall transfer to the missing indigenous  
7           people grant fund for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally recognized Indian  
8           nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find missing indigenous people, for the  
9           biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

10          **SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act are effective through July 31,  
11          2035, and after that date are ineffective.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED HB 1199**

**Workforce Development Committee (Sen. Wobbema, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0199.02001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1199 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**2025 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1199**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB 1199  
4/1/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota Century Code, to amend and reenact section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

2:42 p.m. Chairman Sorvaag called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Sorvaag, Senator Cole Conley, Senator Donald Schaible, Senator Paul J. Thomas, Senator Scott Meyer.

### Discussion Topics:

- Creation of Task Force.
- Use of Funding.
- Cell Service Coverage.

2:42 p.m. Steven Harstad, Chief Agent, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, discussed desire to add "designee" language to the bill.

2:46 p.m. Representative Holle, District 31, introduced the bill in favor

2:50 p.m. Senator Thomas submitted testimony in favor #44677 and Moved amendment to add language "or designee" to the bill. 2:50 p.m. Senator Conely seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y

Motion Passed: 5-0-0.

2:51 p.m. Senator Schaible Moved a Do Pass as amended.

2:51 p.m. Senator Meyer Seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y

Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y

Motion Passed: 5-0-0.

Senator Schaible will carry the bill.

2:51 p.m. Chairman Sorvaag closed the meeting.

*Steven Hall, Committee Clerk*

25.0199.02002  
Title.04000

Prepared for the Senate Appropriations -  
Education and Environment Division  
Committee

April 1, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

### **ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1199**

Introduced by

Representatives Holle, Davis, Finley-DeVille, Brown, Frelich, Grueneich, Porter

Senators Braunberger, Cory, Patten, Marcellais

*In place of the amendments (25.0199.02001) adopted by the Senate, Engrossed House Bill No. 1199 is amended by amendment (25.0199.02002) as follows:*

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the collection of data on missing persons and the missing indigenous  
3 people task force; to amend and reenact section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
4 relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative  
5 management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to  
6 provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **54-12-34. Criminal justice data information sharing system.**

- 11 1. The attorney general shall maintain a criminal justice data information sharing system  
12 within the bureau of criminal investigation for the exchange of criminal justice data  
13 information by judicial, law enforcement, and emergency services agencies, and the  
14 department of transportation. Only an authorized individual employed by a criminal  
15 justice agency as defined in section 12-60-16.1, the department of transportation, a  
16 state court, or the department of emergency services or any other individual approved  
17 by the attorney general or the attorney general's designee may access the system.  
18 For access to the criminal justice data information sharing system, an individual shall

- 1           undergo a criminal history background check, including a fingerprint check, and meet
- 2           eligibility access criteria in accordance with the rules adopted under this section.
- 3       2.   The criminal justice data information sharing system may be accessed only in
- 4           accordance with rules adopted under this section. Any law enforcement record in the
- 5           possession of the attorney general through the criminal justice data information
- 6           sharing system is an exempt record. Criminal justice data information about an offense
- 7           committed by a child if the offense has not been transferred under section 27-20.4-21
- 8           to another court having jurisdiction of the offense and information about a child victim
- 9           or witness is confidential.
- 10      3.   The attorney general shall provide staff to maintain the criminal justice data
- 11           information system and provide administrative support for the advisory board.
- 12      4.   A criminal justice information advisory board must be appointed, consisting of:
- 13           a.   The chief justice of the supreme court or the chief justice's designee.
- 14           b.   The director of the department of emergency services or the director's designee.
- 15           c.   The director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation or the director's
- 16                designee.
- 17           d.   The superintendent of the state highway patrol or the superintendent's designee.
- 18           e.   The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, who is the chairman of the
- 19                advisory board.
- 20           f.   The chief information officer of the state or the chief information officer's
- 21                designee.
- 22           g.   The director of the department of transportation or the director's designee.
- 23           h.   A representative of a city police department, appointed by the attorney general
- 24                from a list of two or more nominees from the North Dakota chiefs of police
- 25                association.
- 26           i.   A representative of a county sheriff's office, appointed by the attorney general
- 27                from a list of two or more nominees from the North Dakota sheriffs and deputies
- 28                association.
- 29           j.   A state's attorney, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more
- 30                nominees from the North Dakota state's attorney's association.

- 1           k. A city government representative, appointed by the attorney general from a list of
- 2           two or more nominees from the league of cities.
- 3           l. A county government representative, appointed by the attorney general from a
- 4           list of two or more nominees from the association of counties.
- 5           ~~m. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive~~
- 6           ~~director's designee.~~
- 7           ~~n. The chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, or the chairman's designee.~~
- 8           ~~o. The chairman of the Spirit Lake Tribe, or the chairman's designee.~~
- 9           ~~p. The chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, or~~
- 10          ~~the chairman's designee.~~
- 11          ~~q. The chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, or the~~
- 12          ~~chairman's designee.~~
- 13          ~~r. The chairman of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse~~
- 14          ~~Reservation, or chairman's designee.~~
- 15          5. Advisory board members who are not permanent full-time state employees are entitled
- 16          to compensation of seventy-five dollars per day and mileage and expenses as
- 17          provided by law for state employees. With the exception of the chief of the bureau of
- 18          criminal investigation, advisory board members appointed under this section serve
- 19          staggered three-year terms.
- 20          6. The attorney general, after consultation with the advisory board, shall adopt rules to
- 21          establish eligibility for access to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to
- 22          implement the collection, storage, and sharing of criminal justice information and the
- 23          systems necessary to perform those functions; and to address the operation of the
- 24          advisory board.
- 25          7. ~~The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users~~
- 26          ~~to enter missing person information in accordance with rules established by the~~
- 27          ~~bureau of criminal investigation. Missing person information, including demographic~~
- 28          ~~data related to indigenous people, which is entered by an authorized user or made~~
- 29          ~~available to an authorized user by a federally recognized tribe in this state must be~~
- 30          ~~included in the repository. Records under this subsection are exempt records that may~~
- 31          ~~be disclosed only in accordance with bureau of criminal investigation rules.~~

1       **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
2 and enacted as follows:

3       **Missing indigenous people task force - Membership - Duties - Collection of data on**  
4 **missing persons - Continuing appropriation - Legislative management report.**

- 5       1. There is created a missing indigenous people task force. The attorney general, or the  
6 attorney general's designee, shall serve as the chairman of the task force and the  
7 attorney general's office shall provide staff services for the task force.
- 8       2. The task force shall meet at least once each quarter.
- 9       3. The task force membership must include the following members:
- 10       a. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;  
11       b. The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, or the chief's designee;  
12       c. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive  
13 director's designee;
- 14       d. The superintendent of the state highway patrol, or the superintendent's designee;  
15 and
- 16       e. A representative from each of the federally recognized Indian nations, tribes, or  
17 bands in this state, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more  
18 nominees from the chairman of each tribe.
- 19       4. While respecting the government-to-government relationship between the state and  
20 each tribe, the primary duties of the task force are to:
- 21       a. Identify jurisdictional barriers between federal, state, local, and tribal law  
22 enforcement and community agencies;
- 23       b. Identify causes that contribute to missing and murdered indigenous people and  
24 make recommendations to federally recognized tribes in the state to reduce  
25 cases of missing and murdered indigenous people;
- 26       c. Identify strategies to improve interagency communication, cooperation, and  
27 collaboration to remove jurisdictional barriers and increase reporting and  
28 investigation of missing indigenous people; and
- 29       d. Administer the missing indigenous people grant fund.

- 1       5. The task force shall submit a report of its activities, findings, and any  
2       recommendations to the legislative management by August first of each year. The  
3       report must include:
  - 4       a. The number of indigenous individuals reported missing in the missing person  
5       repository;
  - 6       b. The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing person  
7       repository;
  - 8       c. The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing  
9       indigenous people grant fund;
  - 10      d. The number of missing indigenous individuals searched for and recovered;
  - 11      e. The number of missing indigenous individuals entries into the missing person  
12      repository by year;
  - 13      f. An analysis by year of the characteristics of missing indigenous people, including  
14      age, gender, child protective services involvement status, foster case status,  
15      duration of time missing, and estimated related cause;
  - 16      g. The number of actively missing indigenous people by year;
  - 17      h. A description of the activities and progress related to improving interagency  
18      communication, cooperation, and collaboration and removing interjurisdictional  
19      barriers; and
  - 20      i. Any other information the task force finds relevant to the task force's mission.
- 21      6. The task force may make recommendations to federal, state, and local agencies in  
22      carrying out the task force's duties.
- 23      7. Money in the missing indigenous people grant fund is appropriated on a continuing  
24      basis to the task force for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally  
25      recognized Indian nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find  
26      missing indigenous people. The director of the office of management and budget shall  
27      transfer any funds remaining in the missing indigenous people grant fund after July 31,  
28      2035, to the general fund.
- 29      8. The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users  
30      to enter missing person information in accordance with rules established by the  
31      bureau of criminal investigation. Missing person information, including demographic

1           data related to indigenous people, which is entered by an authorized user or made  
2           available to an authorized user by a federally recognized tribe in this state must be  
3           included in the repository. Records under this subsection are exempt records that may  
4           be disclosed only in accordance with bureau of criminal investigation rules.

5           **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - TRANSFER - MISSING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE GRANT**  
6 **PROGRAM FUND.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state  
7 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of the sum as may be  
8 necessary, which the office of management and budget shall transfer to the missing indigenous  
9 people grant fund for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally recognized Indian  
10 nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find missing indigenous people, for the  
11 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

12           **SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act are effective through July 31,  
13 2035, and after that date are ineffective.

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1199  
4/3/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the collection of data on missing persons and the missing indigenous people task force; to amend and reenact section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

8:44 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Bekkedahl, Vice-Chairman Erbele, and Senators Burckhard, Cleary, Conley, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Magrum, Mathern, Meyer, Schaible, Sickler, Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

8:44 a.m. Senator Schaible introduced the bill and submitted testimony #44654.

8:45 a.m. Senator Schaible moved amendment LC 25.0199.02002.

8:45 a.m. Senator Sorvaag seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 16-0-0.

8:47 a.m. Senator Schaible moved a Do Pass as Amended.

8:47 a.m. Senator Sorvaag seconded the motion.

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	N
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 15-1-0.

Senator Axtman will carry the bill.

8:48 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

*Elizabeth Reiten, Committee Clerk*

April 1, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

CO  
4/3/25  
1 of 6

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1199**

Introduced by

Representatives Holle, Davis, Finley-DeVille, Brown, Frelich, Grueneich, Porter

Senators Braunberger, Cory, Patten, Marcellais

*In place of the amendments (25.0199.02001) adopted by the Senate, Engrossed House Bill No. 1199 is amended by amendment (25.0199.02002) as follows:*

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the collection of data on missing persons and the missing indigenous  
3 people task force; to amend and reenact section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
4 relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative  
5 management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to  
6 provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **54-12-34. Criminal justice data information sharing system.**

11 1. The attorney general shall maintain a criminal justice data information sharing system  
12 within the bureau of criminal investigation for the exchange of criminal justice data  
13 information by judicial, law enforcement, and emergency services agencies, and the  
14 department of transportation. Only an authorized individual employed by a criminal  
15 justice agency as defined in section 12-60-16.1, the department of transportation, a  
16 state court, or the department of emergency services or any other individual approved  
17 by the attorney general or the attorney general's designee may access the system.  
18 For access to the criminal justice data information sharing system, an individual shall

1 undergo a criminal history background check, including a fingerprint check, and meet  
2 eligibility access criteria in accordance with the rules adopted under this section.

3 2. The criminal justice data information sharing system may be accessed only in  
4 accordance with rules adopted under this section. Any law enforcement record in the  
5 possession of the attorney general through the criminal justice data information  
6 sharing system is an exempt record. Criminal justice data information about an offense  
7 committed by a child if the offense has not been transferred under section 27-20.4-21  
8 to another court having jurisdiction of the offense and information about a child victim  
9 or witness is confidential.

10 3. The attorney general shall provide staff to maintain the criminal justice data  
11 information system and provide administrative support for the advisory board.

12 4. A criminal justice information advisory board must be appointed, consisting of:

- 13 a. The chief justice of the supreme court or the chief justice's designee.
- 14 b. The director of the department of emergency services or the director's designee.
- 15 c. The director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation or the director's  
16 designee.
- 17 d. The superintendent of the state highway patrol or the superintendent's designee.
- 18 e. The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, who is the chairman of the  
19 advisory board.
- 20 f. The chief information officer of the state or the chief information officer's  
21 designee.
- 22 g. The director of the department of transportation or the director's designee.
- 23 h. A representative of a city police department, appointed by the attorney general  
24 from a list of two or more nominees from the North Dakota chiefs of police  
25 association.
- 26 i. A representative of a county sheriff's office, appointed by the attorney general  
27 from a list of two or more nominees from the North Dakota sheriffs and deputies  
28 association.
- 29 j. A state's attorney, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more  
30 nominees from the North Dakota state's attorney's association.

k. A city government representative, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more nominees from the league of cities.

l. A county government representative, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more nominees from the association of counties.

~~m. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee.~~

~~n. The chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, or the chairman's designee.~~

~~o. The chairman of the Spirit Lake Tribe, or the chairman's designee.~~

~~p. The chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, or the chairman's designee.~~

~~q. The chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, or the chairman's designee.~~

~~r. The chairman of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, or chairman's designee.~~

5. Advisory board members who are not permanent full-time state employees are entitled to compensation of seventy-five dollars per day and mileage and expenses as provided by law for state employees. With the exception of the chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, advisory board members appointed under this section serve staggered three-year terms.

6. The attorney general, after consultation with the advisory board, shall adopt rules to establish eligibility for access to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to implement the collection, storage, and sharing of criminal justice information and the systems necessary to perform those functions; and to address the operation of the advisory board.

~~7. The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users to enter missing person information in accordance with rules established by the bureau of criminal investigation. Missing person information, including demographic data related to indigenous people, which is entered by an authorized user or made available to an authorized user by a federally recognized tribe in this state must be included in the repository. Records under this subsection are exempt records that may be disclosed only in accordance with bureau of criminal investigation rules.~~

1       **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
2 and enacted as follows:

3       **Missing indigenous people task force - Membership - Duties - Collection of data on**  
4 **missing persons - Continuing appropriation - Legislative management report.**

- 5       1. There is created a missing indigenous people task force. The attorney general, or the  
6 attorney general's designee, shall serve as the chairman of the task force and the  
7 attorney general's office shall provide staff services for the task force.
- 8       2. The task force shall meet at least once each quarter.
- 9       3. The task force membership must include the following members:
  - 10       a. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
  - 11       b. The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, or the chief's designee;
  - 12       c. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive  
13 director's designee;
  - 14       d. The superintendent of the state highway patrol, or the superintendent's designee;  
15 and
  - 16       e. A representative from each of the federally recognized Indian nations, tribes, or  
17 bands in this state, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more  
18 nominees from the chairman of each tribe.
- 19       4. While respecting the government-to-government relationship between the state and  
20 each tribe, the primary duties of the task force are to:
  - 21       a. Identify jurisdictional barriers between federal, state, local, and tribal law  
22 enforcement and community agencies;
  - 23       b. Identify causes that contribute to missing and murdered indigenous people and  
24 make recommendations to federally recognized tribes in the state to reduce  
25 cases of missing and murdered indigenous people;
  - 26       c. Identify strategies to improve interagency communication, cooperation, and  
27 collaboration to remove jurisdictional barriers and increase reporting and  
28 investigation of missing indigenous people; and
  - 29       d. Administer the missing indigenous people grant fund.

- 1       5.   The task force shall submit a report of its activities, findings, and any  
2       recommendations to the legislative management by August first of each year. The  
3       report must include:
  - 4       a.   The number of indigenous individuals reported missing in the missing person  
5       repository;
  - 6       b.   The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing person  
7       repository;
  - 8       c.   The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing  
9       indigenous people grant fund;
  - 10      d.   The number of missing indigenous individuals searched for and recovered;
  - 11      e.   The number of missing indigenous individuals entries into the missing person  
12      repository by year;
  - 13      f.   An analysis by year of the characteristics of missing indigenous people, including  
14      age, gender, child protective services involvement status, foster case status,  
15      duration of time missing, and estimated related cause;
  - 16      g.   The number of actively missing indigenous people by year;
  - 17      h.   A description of the activities and progress related to improving interagency  
18      communication, cooperation, and collaboration and removing interjurisdictional  
19      barriers; and
  - 20      i.   Any other information the task force finds relevant to the task force's mission.
- 21      6.   The task force may make recommendations to federal, state, and local agencies in  
22      carrying out the task force's duties.
- 23      7.   Money in the missing indigenous people grant fund is appropriated on a continuing  
24      basis to the task force for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally  
25      recognized Indian nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find  
26      missing indigenous people. The director of the office of management and budget shall  
27      transfer any funds remaining in the missing indigenous people grant fund after July 31,  
28      2035, to the general fund.
- 29      8.   The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users  
30      to enter missing person information in accordance with rules established by the  
31      bureau of criminal investigation. Missing person information, including demographic

1 data related to indigenous people, which is entered by an authorized user or made  
2 available to an authorized user by a federally recognized tribe in this state must be  
3 included in the repository. Records under this subsection are exempt records that may  
4 be disclosed only in accordance with bureau of criminal investigation rules.

5 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - TRANSFER - MISSING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE GRANT**  
6 **PROGRAM FUND.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state  
7 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of the sum as may be  
8 necessary, which the office of management and budget shall transfer to the missing indigenous  
9 people grant fund for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally recognized Indian  
10 nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find missing indigenous people, for the  
11 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

12 **SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act are effective through July 31,  
13 2035, and after that date are ineffective.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED AND AMENDED HB 1199**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0199.02002](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (15 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1199, as amended, was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

25.0199.02002  
Title.

Prepared for the Senate Appropriations -  
Education and Environment Division  
Committee

April 1, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1199**

Introduced by

Representatives Holle, Davis, Finley-DeVille, Brown, Frelich, Grueneich, Porter

Senators Braunberger, Cory, Patten, Marcellais

*In place of the amendments (25.0199.02001) adopted by the Senate, House Bill No. 1199 is amended by amendment (25.0199.02002) as follows:*

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the collection of data on missing persons and the missing indigenous  
3 people task force; to amend and reenact section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
4 relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative  
5 management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to  
6 provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **54-12-34. Criminal justice data information sharing system.**

- 11 1. The attorney general shall maintain a criminal justice data information sharing system  
12 within the bureau of criminal investigation for the exchange of criminal justice data  
13 information by judicial, law enforcement, and emergency services agencies, and the  
14 department of transportation. Only an authorized individual employed by a criminal  
15 justice agency as defined in section 12-60-16.1, the department of transportation, a  
16 state court, or the department of emergency services or any other individual approved  
17 by the attorney general or the attorney general's designee may access the system.  
18 For access to the criminal justice data information sharing system, an individual shall

- 1           undergo a criminal history background check, including a fingerprint check, and meet
- 2           eligibility access criteria in accordance with the rules adopted under this section.
- 3       2.   The criminal justice data information sharing system may be accessed only in
- 4           accordance with rules adopted under this section. Any law enforcement record in the
- 5           possession of the attorney general through the criminal justice data information
- 6           sharing system is an exempt record. Criminal justice data information about an offense
- 7           committed by a child if the offense has not been transferred under section 27-20.4-21
- 8           to another court having jurisdiction of the offense and information about a child victim
- 9           or witness is confidential.
- 10      3.   The attorney general shall provide staff to maintain the criminal justice data
- 11           information system and provide administrative support for the advisory board.
- 12      4.   A criminal justice information advisory board must be appointed, consisting of:
- 13           a.   The chief justice of the supreme court or the chief justice's designee.
- 14           b.   The director of the department of emergency services or the director's designee.
- 15           c.   The director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation or the director's
- 16                designee.
- 17           d.   The superintendent of the state highway patrol or the superintendent's designee.
- 18           e.   The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, who is the chairman of the
- 19                advisory board.
- 20           f.   The chief information officer of the state or the chief information officer's
- 21                designee.
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- 23           h.   A representative of a city police department, appointed by the attorney general
- 24                from a list of two or more nominees from the North Dakota chiefs of police
- 25                association.
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- 28                association.
- 29           j.   A state's attorney, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more
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2 two or more nominees from the league of cities.
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4 list of two or more nominees from the association of counties.
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8 ~~o. The chairman of the Spirit Lake Tribe, or the chairman's designee.~~  
9 ~~p. The chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, or~~  
10 ~~the chairman's designee.~~
- 11 ~~q. The chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, or the~~  
12 ~~chairman's designee.~~
- 13 ~~r. The chairman of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse~~  
14 ~~Reservation, or chairman's designee.~~
- 15 5. Advisory board members who are not permanent full-time state employees are entitled  
16 to compensation of seventy-five dollars per day and mileage and expenses as  
17 provided by law for state employees. With the exception of the chief of the bureau of  
18 criminal investigation, advisory board members appointed under this section serve  
19 staggered three-year terms.
- 20 6. The attorney general, after consultation with the advisory board, shall adopt rules to  
21 establish eligibility for access to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to  
22 implement the collection, storage, and sharing of criminal justice information and the  
23 systems necessary to perform those functions; and to address the operation of the  
24 advisory board.
- 25 7. ~~The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users~~  
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3       **Missing indigenous people task force - Membership - Duties - Collection of data on**  
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7 attorney general's office shall provide staff services for the task force.
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- 9       3. The task force membership must include the following members:
  - 10      a. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
  - 11      b. The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, or the chief's designee;
  - 12      c. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive  
13 director's designee;
  - 14      d. The superintendent of the state highway patrol, or the superintendent's designee;  
15 and
  - 16      e. A representative from each of the federally recognized Indian nations, tribes, or  
17 bands in this state, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more  
18 nominees from the chairman of each tribe.
- 19      4. While respecting the government-to-government relationship between the state and  
20 each tribe, the primary duties of the task force are to:
  - 21      a. Identify jurisdictional barriers between federal, state, local, and tribal law  
22 enforcement and community agencies;
  - 23      b. Identify causes that contribute to missing and murdered indigenous people and  
24 make recommendations to federally recognized tribes in the state to reduce  
25 cases of missing and murdered indigenous people;
  - 26      c. Identify strategies to improve interagency communication, cooperation, and  
27 collaboration to remove jurisdictional barriers and increase reporting and  
28 investigation of missing indigenous people; and
  - 29      d. Administer the missing indigenous people grant fund.

- 1       5. The task force shall submit a report of its activities, findings, and any  
2       recommendations to the legislative management by August first of each year. The  
3       report must include:
  - 4       a. The number of indigenous individuals reported missing in the missing person  
5       repository;
  - 6       b. The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing person  
7       repository;
  - 8       c. The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing  
9       indigenous people grant fund;
  - 10      d. The number of missing indigenous individuals searched for and recovered;
  - 11      e. The number of missing indigenous individuals entries into the missing person  
12      repository by year;
  - 13      f. An analysis by year of the characteristics of missing indigenous people, including  
14      age, gender, child protective services involvement status, foster case status,  
15      duration of time missing, and estimated related cause;
  - 16      g. The number of actively missing indigenous people by year;
  - 17      h. A description of the activities and progress related to improving interagency  
18      communication, cooperation, and collaboration and removing interjurisdictional  
19      barriers; and
  - 20      i. Any other information the task force finds relevant to the task force's mission.
- 21      6. The task force may make recommendations to federal, state, and local agencies in  
22      carrying out the task force's duties.
- 23      7. Money in the missing indigenous people grant fund is appropriated on a continuing  
24      basis to the task force for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally  
25      recognized Indian nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find  
26      missing indigenous people. The director of the office of management and budget shall  
27      transfer any funds remaining in the missing indigenous people grant fund after July 31,  
28      2035, to the general fund.
- 29      8. The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users  
30      to enter missing person information in accordance with rules established by the  
31      bureau of criminal investigation. Missing person information, including demographic

1           data related to indigenous people, which is entered by an authorized user or made  
2           available to an authorized user by a federally recognized tribe in this state must be  
3           included in the repository. Records under this subsection are exempt records that may  
4           be disclosed only in accordance with bureau of criminal investigation rules.

5           **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - TRANSFER - MISSING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE GRANT**

6           **PROGRAM FUND.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state  
7           treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of the sum as may be  
8           necessary, which the office of management and budget shall transfer to the missing indigenous  
9           people grant fund for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally recognized Indian  
10          nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find missing indigenous people, for the  
11          biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

12          **SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act are effective through July 31,  
13          2035, and after that date are ineffective.

**2025 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**HB 1199**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1199  
4/22/2025  
Conference Committee

Relating to the collection of data on missing persons and the missing indigenous people task force, relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an expiration date.

4:04 p.m. Madame Chair McLeod opened the meeting.

Members present: Madame Chair McLeod, Representatives C. Brown, Schneider, Senators Axtman, Larson, Powers

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Members of the task force

4:05 p.m. Representative C. Brown discussed amendments relating to members of the task force, #45137.

4:09 p.m. Senator Axtman moved 25.0199.02003 amendment in place of the Senate amendment.

4:09 p.m. Representative C. Brown seconded the motion.

4:11 p.m. Motion passed 6-0-0.

Representative C. Brown and Senator Axtman will carry the bill.

4:12 p.m. Madame Chair McLeod adjourned the meeting.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

April 22, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

VG 4/22/25  
1 of 6

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1199**

Introduced by

Representatives Holle, Davis, Finley-DeVille, Brown, Frelich, Grueneich, Porter

Senators Braunberger, Cory, Patten, Marcellais

*In place of amendment (25.0199.02002) adopted by the Senate, Engrossed House Bill No. 1199 is amended by amendment (25.0199.02003) as follows:*

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the collection of data on missing persons and the missing indigenous  
3 people task force; to amend and reenact section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
4 relating to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to provide for a legislative  
5 management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to  
6 provide for a transfer; ~~and~~ to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.

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

- 8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-12-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **54-12-34. Criminal justice data information sharing system.**

- 11 1. The attorney general shall maintain a criminal justice data information sharing system  
12 within the bureau of criminal investigation for the exchange of criminal justice data  
13 information by judicial, law enforcement, and emergency services agencies, and the  
14 department of transportation. Only an authorized individual employed by a criminal  
15 justice agency as defined in section 12-60-16.1, the department of transportation, a  
16 state court, or the department of emergency services or any other individual approved  
17 by the attorney general or the attorney general's designee may access the system.  
18 For access to the criminal justice data information sharing system, an individual shall  
19 undergo a criminal history background check, including a fingerprint check, and meet  
20 eligibility access criteria in accordance with the rules adopted under this section.

- 1       2. The criminal justice data information sharing system may be accessed only in  
2       accordance with rules adopted under this section. Any law enforcement record in the  
3       possession of the attorney general through the criminal justice data information  
4       sharing system is an exempt record. Criminal justice data information about an offense  
5       committed by a child if the offense has not been transferred under section 27-20.4-21  
6       to another court having jurisdiction of the offense and information about a child victim  
7       or witness is confidential.
- 8       3. The attorney general shall provide staff to maintain the criminal justice data  
9       information system and provide administrative support for the advisory board.
- 10      4. A criminal justice information advisory board must be appointed, consisting of:  
11      a. The chief justice of the supreme court or the chief justice's designee.  
12      b. The director of the department of emergency services or the director's designee.  
13      c. The director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation or the director's  
14      designee.  
15      d. The superintendent of the state highway patrol or the superintendent's designee.  
16      e. The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, who is the chairman of the  
17      advisory board.  
18      f. The chief information officer of the state or the chief information officer's  
19      designee.  
20      g. The director of the department of transportation or the director's designee.  
21      h. A representative of a city police department, appointed by the attorney general  
22      from a list of two or more nominees from the North Dakota chiefs of police  
23      association.  
24      i. A representative of a county sheriff's office, appointed by the attorney general  
25      from a list of two or more nominees from the North Dakota sheriffs and deputies  
26      association.  
27      j. A state's attorney, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more  
28      nominees from the North Dakota state's attorney's association.  
29      k. A city government representative, appointed by the attorney general from a list of  
30      two or more nominees from the league of cities.

1 I. A county government representative, appointed by the attorney general from a  
2 list of two or more nominees from the association of counties.

3 ~~m. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive~~  
4 ~~director's designee.~~

5 ~~n. The chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, or the chairman's designee.~~

6 ~~o. The chairman of the Spirit Lake Tribe, or the chairman's designee.~~

7 ~~p. The chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, or~~  
8 ~~the chairman's designee.~~

9 ~~q. The chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, or the~~  
10 ~~chairman's designee.~~

11 ~~r. The chairman of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse~~  
12 ~~Reservation, or chairman's designee.~~

13 5. Advisory board members who are not permanent full-time state employees are entitled  
14 to compensation of seventy-five dollars per day and mileage and expenses as  
15 provided by law for state employees. With the exception of the chief of the bureau of  
16 criminal investigation, advisory board members appointed under this section serve  
17 staggered three-year terms.

18 6. The attorney general, after consultation with the advisory board, shall adopt rules to  
19 establish eligibility for access to the criminal justice data information sharing system; to  
20 implement the collection, storage, and sharing of criminal justice information and the  
21 systems necessary to perform those functions; and to address the operation of the  
22 advisory board.

23 ~~7. The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users~~  
24 ~~to enter missing person information in accordance with rules established by the~~  
25 ~~bureau of criminal investigation. Missing person information, including demographic~~  
26 ~~data related to indigenous people, which is entered by an authorized user or made~~  
27 ~~available to an authorized user by a federally recognized tribe in this state must be~~  
28 ~~included in the repository. Records under this subsection are exempt records that may~~  
29 ~~be disclosed only in accordance with bureau of criminal investigation rules.~~

30 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
31 and enacted as follows:

**Missing indigenous people task force - Membership - Duties - Collection of data on missing persons - Continuing appropriation - Legislative management report.**

1. There is created a missing indigenous people task force. The attorney general, or the attorney general's designee, shall serve as the chairman of the task force and the attorney general's office shall provide staff services for the task force.
2. The task force shall meet at least once each quarter.
3. The task force membership must include the following members:
  - a. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
  - b. The chief of the bureau of criminal investigation, or the chief's designee;
  - c. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee;
  - d. The superintendent of the state highway patrol, or the superintendent's designee;  
and
  - e. A representative from each of the federally recognized Indian nations, tribes, or bands in this state, appointed by the attorney general from a list of two or more nominees from the chairman of each tribe;
  - f. Two members of the house of representatives, one appointed by the majority leader of the house of representatives and one appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; and
  - g. Two members of the senate, one appointed by the majority leader of the senate and one appointed by the minority leader of the senate.
4. While respecting the government-to-government relationship between the state and each tribe, the primary duties of the task force are to:
  - a. Identify jurisdictional barriers between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and community agencies;
  - b. Identify causes that contribute to missing and murdered indigenous people and make recommendations to federally recognized tribes in the state to reduce cases of missing and murdered indigenous people;
  - c. Identify strategies to improve interagency communication, cooperation, and collaboration to remove jurisdictional barriers and increase reporting and investigation of missing indigenous people; and

- 1           d. Administer the missing indigenous people grant fund; and
- 2           e. Consult with the United States department of justice office of tribal justice to invite
- 3           a federal liaison or representative for consultation on the federal Savanna's Act
- 4           [Pub. L. 116-165; 134 Stat. 760; 25 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.].
- 5       5. The task force shall submit a report of its activities, findings, and any
- 6       recommendations to the legislative management by August first of each year. The
- 7       report must include:
- 8           a. The number of indigenous individuals reported missing in the missing person
- 9           repository;
- 10          b. The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing person
- 11          repository;
- 12          c. The number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing
- 13          indigenous people grant fund;
- 14          d. The number of missing indigenous individuals searched for and recovered;
- 15          e. The number of missing indigenous individuals entries into the missing person
- 16          repository by year;
- 17          f. An analysis by year of the characteristics of missing indigenous people, including
- 18          age, gender, child protective services involvement status, foster case status,
- 19          duration of time missing, and estimated related cause;
- 20          g. The number of actively missing indigenous people by year;
- 21          h. A description of the activities and progress related to improving interagency
- 22          communication, cooperation, and collaboration and removing interjurisdictional
- 23          barriers; and
- 24          i. Any other information the task force finds relevant to the task force's mission.
- 25       6. The task force may make recommendations to federal, state, and local agencies in
- 26       carrying out the task force's duties.
- 27       7. Money in the missing indigenous people grant fund is appropriated on a continuing
- 28       basis to the task force for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally
- 29       recognized Indian nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find
- 30       missing indigenous people. The director of the office of management and budget shall

1        transfer any funds remaining in the missing indigenous people grant fund after July 31,  
2        2035, to the general fund.

3        8. The attorney general shall implement a missing person repository for authorized users  
4        to enter missing person information in accordance with rules established by the  
5        bureau of criminal investigation. Missing person information, including demographic  
6        data related to indigenous people, which is entered by an authorized user or made  
7        available to an authorized user by a federally recognized tribe in this state must be  
8        included in the repository. Records under this subsection are exempt records that may  
9        be disclosed only in accordance with bureau of criminal investigation rules.

10        **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - TRANSFER - MISSING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE GRANT**

11        **PROGRAM FUND.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state  
12        treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of the sum as may be  
13        necessary, which the office of management and budget shall transfer to the missing indigenous  
14        people grant fund for the purpose of supporting the efforts of a federally recognized Indian  
15        nation, tribe, or band in this state, to identify, report, and find missing indigenous people, for the  
16        biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

17        **SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act are effective through July 31,  
18        2035, and after that date are ineffective.

19        **SECTION 5. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

# HB 1199 042225 1610 PM Roll Call Vote

## Final Recommendation

**HB 1199**

**Date Submitted:** April 22, 2025, 4:10 p.m.

**Recommendation:** In Place Of

**Amendment LC #:** 25.0199.02003

**Engrossed LC #:** N/A

**Description:**

**Motioned By:** Axtman, Michelle

**Seconded By:** Brown, Collette

**House Carrier:** Brown, Collette

**Senate Carrier:** Axtman, Michelle

**Emergency Clause:** None

**Vote Results:** 6 - 0 - 0

Rep. McLeod, Carrie	Yea
Rep. Brown, Collette	Yea
Rep. Schneider, Mary	Yea
Sen. Axtman, Michelle	Yea
Sen. Larson, Diane	Yea
Sen. Powers, Michelle	Yea

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED HB 1199**

Your conference committee (Sens. Axtman, Larson, Powers and Reps. McLeod, C. Brown, Schneider) recommends that in place of amendment [25.0199.02002](#) adopted by the Senate, Engrossed HB 1199 is amended by amendment [25.0199.02003](#).

Engrossed HB 1199 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

1199 Conference Committee Representative C. Brown

4.22.25

Section 2 – 3. Taskforce membership:

F: Four legislative members 2 Reps (Majority and Minority) 2 Senators (Majority and Minority)

G: The task force shall consult with the United States Department of Justice Office of Tribal Justice to invite a federal liaison or representative for consultation on Savannas Act.

*"A federal liaison, appointed by the attorney general in consultation with the United States Department of Justice, who may be a representative from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Missing and Murdered Unit, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Attorney's Office tribal liaison, or the Office on Violence Against Women. The federal liaison shall assist the task force in identifying and resolving federal jurisdictional barriers and improving intergovernmental coordination."*

Lastly to add in an emergency clause to get this task force started. I don't know where this will be placed.