
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1713

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Mosbrucker, Gregerson, Caldier, Dye, Barkis, Corry, Sells, Lekanoff, Schmick, Orwall, Chandler, Hudgins, Ryu, Frame, Jinkins, Ortiz-Self, Peterson, Stanford, Van Werven, Tarleton, Valdez, Macri, Pollet, and Leavitt)

1 AN ACT Relating to improving law enforcement response to missing
2 and murdered Native American women; adding new sections to chapter
3 43.43 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Native American
6 women experience violence at much higher rates than other
7 populations. A recent federal study reported that Native American
8 women are murdered at rates greater than ten times the national
9 average. Many of these crimes, however, are often unsolved or even
10 unreported because there are also very high rates of disappearance
11 for Native American women.

12 The legislature further finds that although violence against
13 Native American women has been a neglected issue in society, there is
14 a growing awareness of this crisis, as well as a recognition that the
15 criminal justice system needs to better serve and protect Native
16 American women. The legislature intends to find ways to connect
17 state, tribal, and federal resources to create partnerships to find
18 ways to solve this crisis facing Native American women in our state,
19 while being mindful to include voices from both tribal and urban
20 communities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.43
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Two liaison positions for missing and murdered indigenous
4 women and other missing and murdered indigenous persons are
5 established in the Washington state patrol. One liaison must reside
6 in western Washington, and one liaison must reside in eastern
7 Washington. The liaisons shall work to build relationships to
8 increase trust between governmental organizations and native
9 communities. The liaisons shall facilitate communications among:

10 (a) Indian tribes and tribal organizations and communities;

11 (b) Urban Indian organizations and communities;

12 (c) Tribal liaisons in other state agencies;

13 (d) Law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, local, and
14 tribal level; and

15 (e) Nongovernmental entities that provide services to Native
16 American women.

17 (2) The salary for the liaison positions is fixed by the
18 Washington state patrol.

19 (3) To be eligible for hire as a liaison, an applicant must have
20 significant experience living in tribal or urban indigenous
21 communities.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.43
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 (1) The Washington state patrol must develop a best practices
25 protocol for law enforcement response to missing persons reports for
26 indigenous women and other indigenous persons. The protocol must
27 include steps that law enforcement should take upon receiving a
28 missing persons report for an indigenous woman or other indigenous
29 person.

30 (2) The governor's office of Indian affairs must provide the
31 Washington state patrol with government-to-government training, and
32 must work with the Washington state patrol to schedule and facilitate
33 the training.

--- END ---