

Study Committee on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

PURPOSE: To: (1) conduct a comprehensive study to determine how this State can reduce and end violence against indigenous women and girls in this State; (2) establish methods for tracking and collecting data on violence against indigenous women and girls, including data on missing and murdered indigenous women and girls; (3) review policies and practices that impact violence against indigenous women and girls, such as child welfare policies and practices; (4) review prosecutorial trends and practices relating to crimes of gender violence against indigenous people; (5) gather data on violence against indigenous women and girls in this State; (6) determine the number of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in this State; (7) identify barriers to providing more state resources in tracking violence against indigenous women and girls and reducing the incidences of violence; (8) propose measures to ensure access to culturally appropriate victim services for indigenous women and girls who have been victims of violence; (9) propose legislation to address issues identified by the Study Committee and submit a report regarding the Study Committee's activities and recommendations for administrative or legislative action on or before November 1, 2020 to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and provide a copy of this report to the Secretary of State.

MEMBERSHIP:

House Four members of the House of Representatives who are of indigenous descent or who attend meetings and actively work on issues relating to indigenous peoples, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. One member shall be selected by the Committee by majority vote to serve as Chair.

Walter Blackman, Jennifer Jermaine (Vice Chair), Myron Tsosie, Vacant z-10 House

Senate Four members of the Senate who are of indigenous descent or who attend meetings and actively work on issues relating to indigenous peoples, appointed by the President of the Senate. One member shall be selected by the Committee by majority vote to serve as Vice Chair.

Sally Ann Gonzales, Jamescita Peshlakai (Vice Chair), Victoria Steele, Vacant Z-2 Senate

Other One representative of a Tribal government, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Ms. Monica Antone, Gila River Tribal Council

One Sheriff from a county with a population of less than eight hundred fifty thousand persons, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Mr. Elton Begay, Chief, Tohono O'odham Nation Department of Public Safety

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One chief of police who is from a Tribal police department, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Mr. Timothy Chavez, Chief of Police, Gila River Police Department

The Director of the Department of Public Safety or the Director's designee:

Mr. Paul Etnire, Department of Public Safety

One peace officer who works and resides on a federally recognized American Indian reservation in this State, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Ms. Paula Flores, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee:

Mr. Blaine Gadow, Assistant Attorney General

One Sheriff from a county with a population of eight hundred fifty thousand persons or more, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Mr. Dimitri Whelan Gonzalez, Lieutenant-Maricopa County Major Crimes Division

One representative who is from the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition, a tribal statewide organization that provides advocacy for or counseling to indigenous women and girls who have been victims of violence, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Ms. Leanne Guy, Director, Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition

One member who works with the Phoenix or Tucson Indian Center, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Ms. Patti Hibbeler, CEO Phoenix Indian Center

One County Attorney from a county with a population of less than eight hundred fifty thousand persons, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Mr. Jon Huey, Chief of Police, Yavapai-Apache Police Department

One victim advocate, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Ms. April Ignacio, Tohono O'odham

One County Attorney, or the County Attorney's designee, from a county with a population of eight hundred fifty thousand persons or more, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Mr. Jonathan Mosher, Chief Criminal Deputy Pima County Attorney's Office

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One social worker who works with a Tribal, statewide or local organization that provides services to indigenous women and girls, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Ms. Debbie Nez-Manuel

One member who works in the Phoenix area Indian Health Services, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Ms. Kim Russell, Indian Health Services

One representative who works with a tribal, statewide or local organization that provides legal services to indigenous women or girls, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Mr. Alfred Urbina, Pascua Yaqui Tribal Courts

Notes: The study committee shall meet quarterly or more frequently as the Chairperson deems necessary.

CONTACT: Cherie Stone, Senate Research Staff; Emily Bonner, House Research Staff

REPORT DATE: 11/01/20, 12/01/22, 12/02/23, 12/01/24

EXPIRATION DATE: 09/30/2025

STATUTORY CITE: Laws 2019, Chapter 232