

REFERENCE TITLE: study committee; murdered indigenous women

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fourth Legislature
First Regular Session
2019

SB 1253

Introduced by

Senators Steele: Alston, Bowie, Bradley, Contreras, Dalessandro, Gonzales,
Mendez, Otondo, Peshlakai, Quezada, Rios; Representatives Cano, Chávez,
DeGrazia, Engel, Epstein, Gabaldón, Hernandez A, Jermaine, Powers Hannley,
Rodriguez, Sierra, Teller, Tsosie

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A STUDY COMMITTEE ON MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN
AND GIRLS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Study committee on missing and murdered indigenous
3 women and girls; membership; duties; report;
4 delayed repeal

5 A. The study committee on missing and murdered indigenous women and
6 girls is established consisting of the following members:

7 1. The chairpersons of the house of representatives' and the
8 senate's respective indigenous peoples caucuses or their designees. The
9 chairperson of the senate indigenous peoples caucus shall serve as
10 chairperson and the chairperson of the house of representatives indigenous
11 peoples caucus shall serve as vice chairperson of the study committee.

12 2. The attorney general or the attorney general's designee.

13 3. The director of the department of public safety or the
14 director's designee.

15 4. The following members who are appointed by the governor:

16 (a) One county attorney and one sheriff from a county with a
17 population of eight hundred fifty thousand persons or more and one county
18 attorney and one sheriff from a county with a population of less than
19 eight hundred fifty thousand persons.

20 (b) One representative of a tribal government.

21 (c) One victim advocate.

22 (d) One chief of police who is from a tribal police department.

23 (e) One peace officer who works and resides on a federally
24 recognized American Indian reservation in this state.

25 (f) One social worker who is from a tribal, statewide or local
26 organization that provides services to indigenous women and girls.

27 (g) One representative who is from a tribal, statewide or local
28 organization that provides advocacy for or counseling to indigenous women
29 and girls who have been victims of violence.

30 (h) One representative who is from a tribal, statewide or local
31 organization that provides legal services to indigenous women and girls.

32 (i) All members of the indigenous peoples caucus.

33 (j) One member who works with the Phoenix or Tucson Indian center.

34 (k) One member who works in the Phoenix area Indian health
35 services.

36 B. The study committee shall meet quarterly or more frequently as
37 the chairperson deems necessary.

38 C. Committee members are not eligible to receive compensation, but
39 members who are appointed by the governor are eligible for reimbursement
40 of expenses under title 38, chapter 4, article 2, Arizona Revised
41 Statutes.

42 D. The study committee shall:

43 1. Conduct a comprehensive study to determine how this state can
44 reduce and end violence against indigenous women and girls in this state.

- 1 2. Establish methods for tracking and collecting data on violence
2 against indigenous women and girls, including data on missing and murdered
3 indigenous women and girls.
- 4 3. Review policies and practices that impact violence against
5 indigenous women and girls, such as child welfare policies and practices.
- 6 4. Review prosecutorial trends and practices relating to crimes of
7 gender violence against indigenous people.
- 8 5. Gather data on violence against indigenous women and girls in
9 this state.
- 10 6. Determine the number of missing and murdered indigenous women
11 and girls in this state.
- 12 7. Identify barriers to providing more state resources in tracking
13 violence against indigenous women and girls and reducing the incidences of
14 violence.
- 15 8. Propose measures to ensure access to culturally appropriate
16 victim services for indigenous women and girls who have been victims of
17 violence.
- 18 9. Propose legislation to address issues identified by the study
19 committee.
- 20 10. Submit a report regarding the study committee's activities and
21 recommendations for administrative or legislative action on or before
22 November 1, 2019 to the governor, the president of the senate and the
23 speaker of the house of representatives and provide a copy of this report
24 to the secretary of state.
- 25 E. This section is repealed from and after September 30, 2020.