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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Romero, A/Stansbury/ **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/06/21
Lente **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** 208/ec
SHORT TITLE Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women TF **SB** _____
ANALYST Bachechi

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY21	FY22		
\$20.0	\$30.0	Nonrecurring	General Funds

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)
 Department of Public Safety (DPS)
 Human Services Department (HSD)
 New Mexico Medical Board (NMMB)
 Attorney General (NMAG)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 208 extends the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force through FY22 and provides an appropriation of \$50 thousand to the Indian Affairs Department for expenditure in FY21 and FY22 to pay the expenses of the task force. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY22 shall revert to the general fund.

The task force was established by the Legislature in 2019 (Chapter 106, House Bill 278). This bill amends the law to extend the task force through FY22 and establishes that the secretary of the Indian Affairs Department or designee and the secretary of the Department of Public Safety shall serve as co-chairs of the task force. Current members appointed to the task force by the governor will remain seated, and any vacancies shall be appointed by the governor. The task force co-chairs may fill vacancies that arise by members appointed by the task force co-chairs. All task force members may receive per diem and mileage under the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

Finally, the bill requires the task force submit a summary of its policy recommendations and findings to the governor and other legislative committees by November 1, 2021, instead of the

original November 2020 deadline.

This bill contains an emergency clause requesting this bill take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2022 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force's [Final Report](#)¹ was released in December 2020. The 13-member task force held meetings throughout 2019 and 2020 to address different topics that helped the task force understand current processes, challenges, and barriers to tackling issues with missing and murdered indigenous women in the state. The report indicated data is not being collected consistently across jurisdictions in the state, current federal funding amounts are not sufficient to meet the exceptional public safety needs that exist on tribal lands, and limited manpower prevents police from dedicating adequate resources to investigate cases of missing persons. Jurisdictional gaps, reporting gaps, lack of coordination among law enforcement, uneven media coverage, all contribute to the issue of murdered and missing Indigenous women in New Mexico.

Data findings in the report show

- In Farmington, 66 percent of Native American cases were missing females, and of solved homicide cases, Native Americans represent 42 percent of cases.
- Out of 675 missing persons in Gallup, 53 percent were women, and Native Americans comprise 76 percent of all missing persons. Gallup police department data indicates 87 percent of all homicide cases from 2014 to 2019 were Native Americans.
- From 2014 to 2019 in Albuquerque, 660 Native American missing persons were reported; 287 of those cases are women, representing 43 percent of all Native American missing persons.
- New Mexico has the highest identifiable number of missing and murdered indigenous women cases in the nation.

The task force created an [infographic](#)² that summarizes the report findings and initial recommendations. Additional data can be found on the [Missing Persons Clearinghouse](#)³.

After the final report was drafted, the task force members agreed to request an extension to continue their work for an additional year to collect additional data, begin implementing recommendations, and further develop policy recommendations.

¹ https://www.iad.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NM_MMIWR_Report_FINAL_WEB_v120920.pdf

² <https://www.iad.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/MMIWR-TF-Infographic-1.28.2021.pdf>

³ <https://www.iad.state.nm.us/policy-and-legislation/missing-murdered-indigenous-women/mmiwr-clearinghouse/>

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Indian Affairs Department has administered the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force's since its creation in 2019. While the department has limited capacity, the appropriation allows the department to hire contractors to assist with planning, leading, researching, and drafting.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

A one-year extension may not be sufficient. Additional time would allow the task force to more thoroughly address the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women, develop policy recommendations, and identify resources needed for prevention, as well as to assist those affected.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If this bill is not passed, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force's will disband at the end of FY21.

CLB/sb