

HB 2625 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Gillian Fischer, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of State Police to study how to increase criminal justice and investigative resources towards investigations of missing Native American women in this state. Requires the Department of State Police to report on the results of the study to an appropriate legislative committee no later than September 15, 2020.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies that for the purposes of this provision Native American women includes Alaska Native women.

BACKGROUND:

Murder is the third leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women. According to the proponents of this bill there is no adequate system in place of reporting and investigating these deaths leading to inaccurate and underreported statistics. According to the 2018 Urban Indian Health Institute Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls in 2016 there were 5,712 cases of murdered and missing indigenous women and girls, which took place at similar rates on the reservation and in urban areas. Of these 5,712 cases, only 116 were logged in the Department of Justice (DOJ) database. This bill would require the Department of State Police to study how Department resources addressing the investigation of these missing and murdered Native American women can be increased.