

Subject Office of Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls

Authors Richardson and others

Analyst Ben Johnson (ben.johnson@house.mn.gov)

Date January 9, 2023

Overview

In the 2021 session, the legislature established the Task Force on Missing and Murdered African American Women to examine the causes of violence against African American women and recommend policies to address those causes. This bill establishes an Office of Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls in the Office of Justice Programs, modeled on the recently established Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives.

Summary

| Section | Description |
|---------|-------------|
|---------|-------------|

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Office for missing and murdered Black women and girls. |
|---|---|

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes an office dedicated to preventing and ending the targeting of violence against Black women and girls within the Office of Justice Programs in the Department of Public Safety.

Subd. 2. Director; staff. Directs the commissioner of public safety to appoint a director of the office. Establishes that the director must be closely connected to the Black community and have familiarity with criminal investigations. Encourages the commissioner to consider individuals recommended by members of the Black community. Permits the director to hire employees as necessary. Provides that the director and staff are members of the Minnesota State Retirement Association.

Subd. 3. Duties. Establishes the duties of the new office, including facilitating research, collecting data, advocating for action by the legislature and state agencies to address violence against Black women and girls, proposing legislation, and maintaining communication with other departments and offices regarding cases involving missing Black women and girls.

| Section | Description |
|---------|-------------|
|---------|-------------|

Subd. 4. Coordination with other organizations. Directs the office to coordinate with stakeholders, community members, state agencies, local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and survivors to fulfill its duties.

Subd. 5. Reports. Directs the office to provide an annual report on its actions, data related to missing and murdered Black women and girls, and objectives for the coming year. Reports must be submitted by January 15 each year to the chair and ranking members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over public safety.

Subd. 6. Grants. Permits the office to apply for and receive grants from public and private entities.

Subd. 7. Access to data. States that the office has access to confidential and private corrections, detention, and medical data maintained by an agency in order for the office to perform its duties.

2 **Office of Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls; appropriation.**

Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2024 to establish and operate the Office of Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls.



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155