

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

HOUSE BILL 1137

By: Stewart

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to state government; amending 74 O.S. 2021, Section 150.12A-1, which relates to the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons; deleting federal funding and grant requirements; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2021, Section 150.12A-1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 150.12A-1. A. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation shall coordinate with the United States Attorney's Office and the United States Department of Justice to ~~obtain federal funding by January 1, 2022, to~~ coordinate efforts and gather data to address the issue of missing and murdered indigenous persons in the State of Oklahoma. ~~The Bureau shall seek and apply for any applicable federal grants and may coordinate with private entities to obtain funding or fulfill grant requirements.~~

B. ~~Upon securing federal funding, the~~ The Bureau shall create an Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons.

1 Any individual hired within the Office shall have significant  
2 experience working with tribal communities. Subject to available  
3 funding, the Office shall include a missing persons specialist.

4 C. The Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous  
5 Persons shall:

6 1. Work with state, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies  
7 on missing persons and homicide cases involving American Indian  
8 individuals;

9 2. Develop a best practices protocol for law enforcement  
10 response to missing persons reports involving American Indian  
11 individuals;

12 3. Assist families, tribal agencies and nongovernmental  
13 entities in using the National Missing and Unidentified Persons  
14 System (NamUs) and other resources;

15 4. Provide guidance to victims' families with navigating state  
16 and federal district court cases;

17 5. Coordinate with other state offices including, but not  
18 limited to, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, agency tribal  
19 liaisons and the Secretary of Native American Affairs to develop  
20 training and education on missing and murdered indigenous persons  
21 issues and the state-tribal government-to-government relationship;

22 6. Facilitate trainings for law enforcement and members of the  
23 public on issues relating to missing and murdered indigenous  
24 persons; and

1        7. Consult with community organizations that serve indigenous  
2 populations to promote community relations and develop best  
3 practices.

4        SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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