

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SHB 2951

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Ordering a study to determine how to increase reporting and investigation of missing Native American women.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives McCabe, Gregerson, Stambaugh, Stanford, Walsh, Reeves, Dye, Barkis, Frame, Haler, Jinkins, Kloba, Ormsby, Valdez and Peterson).

**House Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs**  
**Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections**  
**Senate Committee on Ways & Means**

### **Background:**

A recent federal Department of Justice report found that four out of five Native American women have experienced violence in their lives. The Canadian government recently initiated a national Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls to report on the causes and high rates for violence towards indigenous women and girls.

The Washington State Patrol (State Patrol) Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit provides services for reporting and investigating missing persons. Such services include a 24-hour telephone service for reporting missing persons, poster distribution and research assistance to local law enforcement and family members, and coordinating investigative resources with state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies.

### **Summary:**

The State Patrol is required to conduct a study on increasing state resources for reporting and identifying missing Native American women in the state. The State Patrol and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs must convene meetings with tribal and local law enforcement partners and work with federally recognized tribes in a government-to-government relationship to explore ways of creating partnerships. The State Patrol also must work with the federal Department of Justice to increase information sharing and coordinate resources.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The State Patrol must report to the Legislature by June 1, 2019, on the results of the study. The study must include: data on the number of missing Native American women in the state; any barriers to providing more state resources to the issue; and any recommendations, including proposed legislation to address the problem.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	98	0	
Senate	48	1	(Senate amended)
House	96	0	(House concurred)

**Effective:** June 7, 2018