

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 1571

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning protections and services for indigenous persons who are missing, murdered, or survivors of human trafficking.

Sponsors: House Committee on Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Mosbrucker, Dye, Boehnke, Ybarra, Jacobsen, Dent, Walen, Graham, Robertson, Maycumber, Barkis, Caldier, Goodman, Berry, Chambers, Wylie, Corry, Griffey, Walsh, Eslick, Chase, Sutherland and Ormsby).

House Committee on Public Safety
House Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Law & Justice
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background:

County Coroners and Medical Examiners.

Every county has a coroner or medical examiner to investigate deaths, conduct inquests, order autopsies, and to determine cause of death in certain cases. The coroner or medical examiner has jurisdiction of bodies of all deceased persons who come to their death through a variety of circumstances and may authorize an autopsy or postmortem for such bodies. Records of autopsies or postmortems are confidential and may only be released to authorized parties.

Whenever a person dies within a county without making prior plans for the disposition of his or her body, and there is no other person willing to provide for the disposition of the body, the county coroner must cause such body to be entrusted to a funeral home in the county where the body is found.

Summary:

County Coroners and Medical Examiners.

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

County coroners or medical examiners with jurisdiction over the human remains of an indigenous person must cooperate with law enforcement to attempt to identify and contact family members and any affected tribes prior to disturbance of the remains, except as necessary in the interest of safety or to preserve evidence for an ongoing criminal investigation. The attempt to make contact must include an attempt to facilitate contact through the regional liaison for missing and murdered indigenous persons within 10 days of the coroner or medical examiner receiving jurisdiction over the remains.

The coroner or medical examiner is required to allow a family member or tribal representative to visit the remains for the purpose of conducting spiritual practices or ceremonies in accordance with the indigenous person's passing. A family member or representative's activities may not interfere with or jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation. The lead investigator from the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction and the coroner or medical examiner must provide the family member or representative with a list of prohibited conduct when interacting with the remains, including an explanation of why the conduct is prohibited.

The coroner or medical examiner must also make reasonable efforts to contact family members of the deceased prior to entrusting the body to a funeral home, including an attempt to facilitate contact through the regional liaison for missing and murdered indigenous persons within 10 days of the coroner or medical examiner receiving jurisdiction over the remains. Upon a family member's written request, the coroner or medical examiner must provide an estimated timeframe for returning the body to the family, unless doing so would jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation.

Grant Program—Wraparound Services for Indigenous Survivors of Trafficking.

Subject to the availability of funding, the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA) must establish a competitive grant program to award funding to an eligible public agency, federally recognized tribe, nonprofit community group, or nonprofit treatment provider to establish a pilot project providing wraparound services to indigenous survivors of trafficking by September 1, 2022.

The grant recipient must use the grant funds to develop or maintain a center capable of providing wraparound services to at least 50 indigenous persons who are survivors of trafficking, including:

- short-term and long-term shelter;
- food;
- nonemergency health care;
- mental health counseling and treatment;
- substance abuse prevention, assessment, and treatment;
- case management and care coordination;
- education and special education services;
- vocational training;
- legal services, protection, and advocacy; and

- transportation.

The grant recipient must provide a report to the Department of Commerce (Commerce) on the results of the pilot project by October 1, 2023. Commerce must provide a report on the pilot project to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2023. The grant program expires January 1, 2024.

Grant Program—Services and Resources for Indigenous Survivors of Trafficking.

Subject to the availability of funding, the OCVA must award grant funding to local agencies, federally recognized tribes, nonprofit community groups, and nonprofit treatment providers to increase the visibility and accessibility of services and resources for indigenous survivors of trafficking by September 1, 2022.

The OCVA must award 10 grants to eligible applicants: five to applicants in cities west of the crest of the Cascade mountains, and five to applicants in cities east of the crest of the Cascade mountains. Grant recipients recipients are required to collaborate with the two liaisons for missing and murdered indigenous persons to develop a campaign to increase the visibility and accessibility of services and resources for indigenous persons who are survivors of human trafficking, including:

- development of methods to help convey information discreetly and effectively, such as through the use of easily recognizable logos and symbols;
- increased signage for relevant antitrafficking hotlines in frequently visited areas, such as truck stops, gas stations, and hotels; and
- increased online promotion.

Grant recipients must provide a report to Commerce on the results of their campaigns by October 1, 2023. Commerce must provide a report on the pilot project to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2023. The grant program expires January 1, 2024.

Missing Persons in Jail.

Upon knowledge from the National Crime Information Center, the Washington State Crime Information Center, or similar or subsequent authority, that a person who is the subject of a missing person's report is in custody or being released from custody at a jail, the jail must notify the agency of original jurisdiction for the missing person's report.

Votes on Final Passage:

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

Effective: June 9, 2022