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S.B. 178
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Hicks-Hudson

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SUMMARY

- Establishes the Task Force on Missing Women and Girls who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color.
- Makes an appropriation.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Task Force on Missing Women and Girls who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color

Establishment and responsibilities of the Task Force

The bill establishes the Task Force on Missing Women and Girls who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color, and requires the Task Force to do the following:

1. Work with state agencies to develop policy changes that will address the lack of care and concern for missing and murdered women and girls who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color, and identify policies that will ensure that first responders are culturally competent;
2. Advance the knowledge of communities on the severity of the issue of women and girls who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color who are missing and murdered;
3. Ensure that communities of people who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color are educated and trained on prevention and protection strategies and social media protocols regarding women and girls who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color who are missing and murdered;
4. Develop a strategy to collect statistics, demographics, surveys, oral histories, and data analysis relevant to women and girls who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color who are missing and murdered;

5. Recommend preventive programming and ideas to advance the safety of women and girls, including policies that address the overlapping forms of oppression faced by women and girls who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color;
6. Identify major traffic hubs, highways, and resource extraction sites that lead to or are responsible for the facilitation of the abduction of women and girls who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color;
7. Create a statewide awareness campaign regarding women and girls who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color who are missing and murdered;
8. Hold public meetings throughout Ohio to solicit public input;
9. Solicit and accept written public input.¹

Membership, appointments, and terms

The bill requires that the Task Force consist of the following nine members:

- The Director of Job and Family Services or the Director's designee;
- The Executive Director of the Division of Criminal Justice Services or the Executive Director's designee;
- The Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol or the Superintendent's designee;
- Two members appointed by the Senate President;
- Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- One member appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;
- One member appointed by the House Minority Leader.

Appointed Task Force members must be representative of the communities experiencing this crisis, including directly impacted individuals, and reflect the diversity of Ohio and have experience in cultural competency.

Initial Task Force members must be appointed not later than 90 days after the bill's effective date. Members must serve terms of two years. Any vacancy on the Task Force must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.²

Chairperson and quorum

Members must select one member of the Task Force to serve as chairperson.

A majority of the members of the Task Force constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Task Force.³

¹ R.C. 2901.44(A).

² R.C. 2901.44(B) and (C).

³ R.C. 2901.44(D) and (E).

Compensation

Task Force members must serve without compensation but must be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.⁴

Reporting requirements

Not later than two years after the bill's effective date, and every two years thereafter, the Task Force must submit a report containing its findings and recommendations to the Senate President, Speaker of the House, Senate Minority Leader, and House Minority Leader. The report must be made available to the public.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-23-25

ANSB0178IN-136/ts

⁴ R.C. 2901.44(F).

⁵ R.C. 2901.44(G).