

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8545

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 8, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. REYES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend a chapter of the laws of 2023 establishing a task force on missing women and girls who are black, indigenous and people of color, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4266-A and A. 5088-A, in relation to directing the division of criminal justice services to establish a task force on missing women and girls who are black, indigenous and people of color; and to repeal certain provisions of such law related thereto

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 1 of a chapter of the laws of 2023 establishing a  
2 task force on missing women and girls who are black, indigenous and  
3 people of color, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4266-A and  
4 A. 5088-A, is REPEALED.  
5 § 2. Sections 2 and 3 of a chapter of the laws of 2023 establishing a  
6 task force on missing women and girls who are black, indigenous and  
7 people of color, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4266-A and  
8 A. 5088-A, are renumbered sections 1 and 2 and section 1 is amended to  
9 read as follows:  
10 Section 1. a. [~~There is hereby established~~] The division of criminal  
11 justice services, in conjunction with the office for the prevention of  
12 domestic violence, shall convene a task force on missing women and girls  
13 who are black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC). Such task force  
14 shall be composed of the commissioner of the office of family and chil-  
15 dren's services, the commissioner of the division of criminal justice  
16 services, the executive director of the office for the prevention of  
17 domestic violence, the superintendent of state police, the commissioner  
18 of the office of temporary and disability assistance, the commissioner  
19 of the department of health, the director of the office of victim  
20 services, the commissioner of the office of mental health, the commis-  
21 sioner of the department of labor, and the commissioner of the depart-  
22 ment of transportation or [~~the~~] their designees [~~of such commissioners~~  
23 ~~and superintendent~~]. Additional members shall be appointed as follows,

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 ~~two shall be appointed by the governor,~~ two shall be appointed by the  
2 temporary president of the senate, two shall be appointed by the speaker  
3 of the assembly, one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the  
4 senate, and one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assem-  
5 bly. Members shall be representative of the communities experiencing  
6 this crisis, including directly impacted individuals, reflect the diver-  
7 sity of New York state, and have experience in cultural competency.

8 b. Task force members shall receive no compensation for their services  
9 but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in  
10 the performance of their duties.

11 c. ~~[The task force shall:~~

12 ~~(i) develop policy changes that will work to address the lack of care~~  
13 ~~and concern for missing and murdered BIPOC women and girls with New York~~  
14 ~~state governmental agencies, including identifying policies to ensure~~  
15 ~~first responders are culturally competent;~~

16 ~~(ii) advance the knowledge of communities on the severity of BIPOC~~  
17 ~~women and girls who are missing and murdered;~~

18 ~~(iii) ensure BIPOC communities are educated and trained on the~~  
19 ~~prevention, protection, and protocols relating to missing BIPOC women~~  
20 ~~and girls as it relates to social media;~~

21 ~~(iv) develop a strategy to collect statistics, demographics, surveys,~~  
22 ~~oral histories, and data analysis;~~

23 ~~(v) recommend preventive programming and ideas to advance the safety~~  
24 ~~of women and girls, including policies that address the overlapping~~  
25 ~~forms of oppression faced by BIPOC women and girls;~~

26 ~~(vi) identify major traffic hubs, highways, and resource extraction~~  
27 ~~sites that lead to or are responsible for the facilitation of the abduc-~~  
28 ~~tion of BIPOC women and girls; and~~

29 ~~(vii) create a state-wide awareness campaign.~~

30 ~~d. In carrying out the duties of the task force, such task force shall~~  
31 ~~seek public input by holding public hearings in each region of the state~~  
32 ~~and accepting public input in writing.]~~ The task force shall commission

33 a study on ways to reduce disparities in attention, resources and  
34 commitment to finding missing girls and women who are black, indigenous  
35 and people of color (BIPOC). The study, which shall include conclusions  
36 and recommendations based on stakeholder input, shall be provided to the  
37 task force upon completion.

38 d. Based upon the study, the task force shall prepare a final report  
39 outlining its findings and recommendations providing ways for New York  
40 state to:

41 (i) improve cultural responsiveness and alleviate a lack of care and  
42 concern for missing and murdered BIPOC women and girls within New York  
43 state;

44 (ii) enhance community awareness of the severity of the number of  
45 BIPOC women and girls who are missing and murdered, including the  
46 creation of a statewide public awareness campaign;

47 (iii) provide communities of black, indigenous and people of color  
48 with education and training on the prevention, protection, and protocols  
49 relating to missing BIPOC women and girls, including as it relates to  
50 social media;

51 (iv) developing strategies to collect statistics, demographics,  
52 surveys, oral histories, and data analysis;

53 (v) recommend preventative programming and ideas to advance the  
54 safety of BIPOC women and girls, including policies that address the  
55 overlapping forms of oppression faced by women and girls who are BIPOC;  
56 and

1 (vi) identify major traffic hubs, highways, and resource extraction  
2 sites that lead to or are responsible for the facilitation of the abduc-  
3 tion of women and girls who are BIPOC.

4 e. On or before two years after the effective date of this act, the  
5 task force shall submit to the temporary president of the senate, the  
6 speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the  
7 minority leader of the assembly a report containing its findings and  
8 recommendations. [~~Such reports~~] The report shall be made available to  
9 the public.

10 § 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same  
11 manner as a chapter of the laws of 2023 establishing a task force on  
12 missing women and girls who are black, indigenous and people of color,  
13 as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4266-A and A. 5088-A, takes  
14 effect, provided, however, that the amendments to section 1 of a chapter  
15 of the laws of 2023 establishing a task force on missing women and girls  
16 who are black, indigenous and people of color, as proposed in legisla-  
17 tive bills numbers S. 4266-A and A. 5088-A, made by section two of this  
18 act shall be subject to the expiration of such section and shall expire  
19 and be deemed repealed therewith.