

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1853

To require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 13, 2019

Mr. UDALL (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. MCSALLY, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

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## A BILL

To require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Bridging Agency Data Gaps and Ensuring Safety for  
6 Native Communities Act” or the “BADGES for Native  
7 Communities Act”.

8 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
9 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.  
 Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—BRIDGING AGENCY DATA GAPS

- Sec. 101. Federal law enforcement database reporting requirements.  
 Sec. 102. National Missing and Unidentified Persons System Tribal liaison.  
 Sec. 103. Law enforcement data sharing with Indian tribes.  
 Sec. 104. Report on Indian country law enforcement personnel resources and need.

TITLE II—ENSURING SAFETY FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES

- Sec. 201. Demonstration program on Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement employment background checks.  
 Sec. 202. Missing and murdered response coordination grant program.  
 Sec. 203. GAO study on Federal law enforcement agency evidence collection, handling, and processing.  
 Sec. 204. Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribal law enforcement officer counseling resources interdepartmental coordination.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means  
 4 the Director of the Office of Justice Services.

5 (2) **FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**—  
 6 The term “Federal law enforcement agency” means  
 7 the Bureau of Indian Affairs direct-service police,  
 8 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and any other  
 9 Federal law enforcement agency that—

10 (A) has jurisdiction over crimes in Indian  
 11 country; or

12 (B) investigates missing persons cases of  
 13 interest to Indian tribes, murder cases of inter-  
 14 est to Indian tribes, or unidentified remains  
 15 cases of interest to Indian tribes.

1           (3) INDIAN.—The term “Indian” has the mean-  
2           ing given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-  
3           Determination and Education Assistance Act (25  
4           U.S.C. 5304).

5           (4) INDIAN COUNTRY.—The term “Indian coun-  
6           try” has the meaning given the term in section 1151  
7           of title 18, United States Code.

8           (5) INDIAN LAND.—The term “Indian land”  
9           has the meaning given the term “Indian lands” in  
10          section 3 of the Native American Business Develop-  
11          ment, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000  
12          (25 U.S.C. 4302).

13          (6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”  
14          has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the  
15          Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
16          Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

17          (7) MANSLAUGHTER.—The term “man-  
18          slaughter” has the meaning given the term in sec-  
19          tion 1112 of title 18, United States Code.

20          (8) MISSING.—The term “missing” has the  
21          meaning determined by the applicable Federal law  
22          enforcement agency.

23          (9) MISSING PERSONS CASE OF INTEREST TO  
24          INDIAN TRIBES.—The term “missing persons case of  
25          interest to Indian tribes” means a case involving—

1 (A) a missing Indian; or

2 (B) a missing person whose last known lo-  
3 cation is believed to be on, in, or near Indian  
4 land.

5 (10) MURDER.—The term “murder” has the  
6 meaning given the term in section 1111 of title 18,  
7 United States Code.

8 (11) MURDER CASE OF INTEREST TO INDIAN  
9 TRIBES.—The term “murder case of interest to In-  
10 dian tribes” means a case involving—

11 (A) a murdered Indian; or

12 (B) a person murdered on, in, or near In-  
13 dian land.

14 (12) MURDERED.—The term “murdered”, with  
15 respect to a person, means the person was the victim  
16 of—

17 (A) murder; or

18 (B) manslaughter.

19 (13) NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION DATA-  
20 BASES.—The term “national crime information  
21 databases” has the meaning given the term in sec-  
22 tion 534(f)(3) of title 28, United States Code.

23 (14) RELEVANT TRIBAL STAKEHOLDER.—The  
24 term “relevant Tribal stakeholder” means, as appli-  
25 cable—

- 1 (A) an Indian tribe;
- 2 (B) a tribal organization; and
- 3 (C) a national or regional organization
- 4 that—
- 5 (i) represents a substantial Indian
- 6 constituency; and
- 7 (ii) has expertise in the fields of—
- 8 (I) human trafficking;
- 9 (II) violence against women and
- 10 children; or
- 11 (III) Tribal justice systems.

12 (15) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”

13 means the Secretary of the Interior.

14 (16) TRIBAL JUSTICE OFFICIAL.—The term

15 “tribal justice official” has the meaning given the

16 term in section 2 of the Indian Law Enforcement

17 Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 2801).

18 (17) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “tribal

19 organization” has the meaning given the term in

20 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-

21 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

22 (18) UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS CASE OF INTER-

23 EST TO INDIAN TRIBES.—The term “unidentified re-

24 mains case of interest to Indian tribes” means a

25 case involving—

- 1 (A) unidentified Indian remains; or  
2 (B) unidentified remains found on, in, or  
3 near Indian land.

4 **TITLE I—BRIDGING AGENCY**  
5 **DATA GAPS**

6 **SEC. 101. FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DATABASE RE-**  
7 **PORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 151(a) of the Sex Of-  
9 fender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C.  
10 20961(a)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” after  
12 the semicolon;

13 (2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-  
14 graph (3); and

15 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
16 lowing:

17 “(2) the National Missing and Unidentified  
18 Persons System, to be used by a person accessing  
19 the System only within the scope of the work of the  
20 person in assisting or supporting law enforcement  
21 efforts to solve missing, unidentified, and unclaimed  
22 person cases across the United States; and”.

23 (b) SHARING OF INFORMATION.—Not later than 2  
24 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney  
25 General shall, in a manner that maintains the integrity

1 of confidential, private, and law enforcement sensitive in-  
2 formation, provide for information on missing persons and  
3 unidentified remains contained in national crime informa-  
4 tion databases to be transmitted to, entered in, and other-  
5 wise shared with the National Missing and Unidentified  
6 Persons System.

7 (c) TEMPORARY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Until  
8 such time as the data sharing procedures required under  
9 subsection (b) are in effect, each Federal law enforcement  
10 agency shall enter into the National Missing and Unidenti-  
11 fied Persons System each missing persons case of interest  
12 to Indian tribes and each unidentified remains case of in-  
13 terest to Indian tribes reported to or investigated by the  
14 Federal law enforcement agency.

15 (d) COORDINATION WITH NAMUS TRIBAL LIAI-  
16 SON.—The Director and the Director of the Federal Bu-  
17 reau of Investigation shall each appoint a liaison to coordi-  
18 nate with the 1 or more Tribal liaisons appointed under  
19 section (4)(a) to ensure that—

20 (1) all missing persons cases of interest to In-  
21 dian tribes and all unidentified remains cases of in-  
22 terest to Indian tribes are fully captured in the Na-  
23 tional Missing and Unidentified Persons System;  
24 and

1           (2) Indian tribes are aware of, and able to ac-  
2           cess, information in the National Missing and Un-  
3           identified Persons System.

4 **SEC. 102. NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS**  
5           **SYSTEM TRIBAL LIAISON.**

6           (a) APPOINTMENT.—The Attorney General, acting  
7 through the Director of the National Institute of Justice,  
8 shall appoint 1 or more Tribal liaisons for the National  
9 Missing and Unidentified Persons System.

10          (b) DUTIES.—The duties of a Tribal liaison ap-  
11 pointed under subsection (a) shall include—

12           (1) coordinating the reporting of information  
13 relating to missing persons cases of interest to In-  
14 dian tribes and unidentified remains cases of inter-  
15 est to Indian tribes;

16           (2) consulting and coordinating with relevant  
17 Tribal stakeholders to address the reporting, docu-  
18 mentation, and tracking of missing persons cases of  
19 interest to Indian tribes and unidentified remains  
20 cases of interest to Indian tribes;

21           (3) developing working relationships, and main-  
22 taining communication, with relevant Tribal stake-  
23 holders;

24           (4) providing technical assistance and training  
25 to relevant Tribal stakeholders, victim service advo-



1 cates, medical examiners, and tribal justice officials  
2 regarding—

3 (A) the gathering and reporting of infor-  
4 mation to the National Missing and Unidenti-  
5 fied Persons System; and

6 (B) working with non-Tribal law enforce-  
7 ment agencies to ensure all missing persons  
8 cases of interest to Indian tribes and unidenti-  
9 fied remains cases of interest to Indian tribes  
10 are reported to the National Missing and Un-  
11 identified Persons System;

12 (5) coordinating with the Office of Tribal Jus-  
13 tice and the Office of Justice Services, as necessary;  
14 and

15 (6) conducting other training, information gath-  
16 ering, and outreach activities to improve resolution  
17 of missing persons cases of interest to Indian tribes  
18 and unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian  
19 tribes.

20 (c) REPORTING AND TRANSPARENCY.—

21 (1) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—During  
22 the 3-year-period beginning on the date of enact-  
23 ment of this Act, the Attorney General, acting  
24 through the Director of the National Institute of  
25 Justice, shall submit to the Committees on Indian

1 Affairs and the Judiciary of the Senate and the  
2 Committees on Natural Resources and the Judiciary  
3 of the House of Representatives an annual report—

4 (A) describing the activities and accom-  
5 plishments of the 1 or more Tribal liaisons ap-  
6 pointed under subsection (a) during the 1-year  
7 period preceding the date of the report; and

8 (B) summarizing—

9 (i) the number of missing persons  
10 cases of interest to Indian tribes and un-  
11 identified remains cases of interest to In-  
12 dian tribes listed in the National Missing  
13 and Unidentified Persons System;

14 (ii) the percentage of missing persons  
15 cases of interest to Indian tribes and un-  
16 identified remains cases of interest to In-  
17 dian tribes closed during the 1-year period  
18 preceding the date of the report; and

19 (iii) the reasons for those closures.

20 (2) PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY.—Annually, the At-  
21 torney General, acting through the Director of the  
22 National Institute of Justice, shall publish on a  
23 website publicly accessible information—

24 (A) describing the activities and accom-  
25 plishments of the 1 or more Tribal liaisons ap-

1 pointed under subsection (a) during the 1-year  
 2 period preceding the date of the publication;  
 3 and

4 (B) summarizing—

5 (i) the number of missing persons  
 6 cases of interest to Indian tribes and un-  
 7 identified remains cases of interest to In-  
 8 dian tribes listed in the National Missing  
 9 and Unidentified Persons System;

10 (ii) the percentage of missing persons  
 11 cases of interest to Indian tribes and un-  
 12 identified remains cases of interest to In-  
 13 dian tribes closed during the 1-year period  
 14 preceding the date of the report; and

15 (iii) the reasons for those closures.

16 **SEC. 103. LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA SHARING WITH INDIAN**  
 17 **TRIBES.**

18 (a) ACCESS TO NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION  
 19 DATABASES BY TRIBES.—Section 233(b) of the Tribal  
 20 Law and Order Act of 2010 (34 U.S.C. 41107) is amend-  
 21 ed—

22 (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the  
 23 following:

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall  
 25 ensure that—

1           “(A) tribal law enforcement officials that  
2           meet applicable Federal or State requirements  
3           shall be permitted access to national crime in-  
4           formation databases;

5           “(B) technical assistance and training is  
6           provided to Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribal  
7           law enforcement agencies to gain access to, and  
8           the ability to use and input information into,  
9           the National Crime Information Center and  
10          other national crime information databases pur-  
11          suant to section 534 of title 28, United States  
12          Code; and

13          “(C) the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
14          coordinates with the Office of Justice Services  
15          to ensure tribal law enforcement agencies are  
16          assigned appropriate credentials or ORI num-  
17          bers for uniform crime reporting purposes.”;  
18          and

19          (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “with criminal  
20          jurisdiction over Indian country”.

21          (b) ACQUISITION, PRESERVATION, AND EXCHANGE  
22          OF IDENTIFICATION RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—Sec-  
23          tion 534(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as  
2           subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indent-  
3           ing appropriately;

4           (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)  
5           (as so redesignated), by striking “The Attorney Gen-  
6           eral” and inserting the following:

7           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General”;  
8           and

9           (3) by adding at the end the following:

10          “(2) TRIBAL ACCESS PROGRAM.—

11                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General  
12                 shall establish a program, to be known as the  
13                 ‘Tribal Access Program’, to enhance the ability  
14                 of tribal governments to access and enter infor-  
15                 mation into Federal criminal information data-  
16                 bases under this section.

17                 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
18                 TIONS.—

19                         “(i) IN GENERAL.—There is author-  
20                         ized to be appropriated to carry out the  
21                         Tribal Access Program under subpara-  
22                         graph (A) \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal  
23                         years 2020 through 2024, to remain avail-  
24                         able until expended.

1           “(ii) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—The At-  
2           torney General may use to carry out the  
3           Tribal Access Program under subpara-  
4           graph (A) any balances remaining for the  
5           account under the heading ‘VIOLENCE  
6           AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROS-  
7           ECUTION PROGRAMS’ under the heading  
8           ‘STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
9           ACTIVITIES OFFICE ON VIOLENCE  
10          AGAINST WOMEN’ of the Department of  
11          Justice from appropriations for full fiscal  
12          years prior to the date of enactment of the  
13          Bridging Agency Data Gaps and Ensuring  
14          Safety for Native Communities Act.

15           “(3) INFORMATION SHARING.—To the extent  
16          otherwise permitted by law, any report issued as a  
17          result of the analysis of information entered into  
18          Federal criminal information databases or obtained  
19          from Federal criminal databases, including for the  
20          purpose of conducting background checks, shall be  
21          shared with each Indian tribe of jurisdiction.”.

1 **SEC. 104. REPORT ON INDIAN COUNTRY LAW ENFORCE-**  
2 **MENT PERSONNEL RESOURCES AND NEED.**

3 (a) DEFINITION OF DOJ LAW ENFORCEMENT AGEN-  
4 CY.—In this section, the term “DOJ law enforcement  
5 agency” means each of—

- 6 (1) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- 7 (2) the Drug Enforcement Administration;
- 8 (3) the United States Marshals Service;
- 9 (4) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms  
10 and Explosives; and
- 11 (5) the Offices of the United States Attorneys.

12 (b) REPORT.—Each fiscal year, the Attorney General  
13 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress  
14 a report describing for that fiscal year—

- 15 (1) the number of full-time employees of each  
16 DOJ law enforcement agency that are assigned to  
17 work on criminal investigations and prosecutions in  
18 Indian country;
- 19 (2) an estimate of the average caseload of—
  - 20 (A) the full-time employees described in  
21 paragraph (1); compared to
  - 22 (B) the other full-time employees at the re-  
23 spective DOJ law enforcement agency that are  
24 assigned to work on criminal investigations and  
25 prosecutions; and

1           (3) an explanation for any differences in the av-  
2           erage caseloads identified under subparagraphs (A)  
3           and (B) of paragraph (2).

## 4           **TITLE II—ENSURING SAFETY** 5           **FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES**

### 6           **SEC. 201. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON BUREAU OF IN-** 7                                   **DIAN AFFAIRS LAW ENFORCEMENT EMPLOY-** 8                                   **MENT BACKGROUND CHECKS.**

9           (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
11           a demonstration program for the purpose of con-  
12           ducting or adjudicating, in coordination with the Di-  
13           rector of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, personnel  
14           background investigations for applicants for law en-  
15           forcement positions in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

16           (2) BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS AND SECUR-  
17           ITY CLEARANCE DETERMINATIONS.—

18           (A) BIA INVESTIGATIONS.—As part of the  
19           demonstration program established under para-  
20           graph (1), the Secretary may carry out a back-  
21           ground investigation, security clearance deter-  
22           mination, or both a background investigation  
23           and a security clearance determination for an  
24           applicant for a law enforcement position in the  
25           Bureau of Indian Affairs.



1 (B) USE OF PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS  
2 AND DETERMINATIONS.—

3 (i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause  
4 (ii), as part of the demonstration program  
5 established under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
6 retary, in adjudicating background inves-  
7 tigations for applicants for law enforce-  
8 ment positions in the Bureau of Indian Af-  
9 fairs, shall consider previous background  
10 investigations for an applicant, security  
11 clearance determinations for an applicant,  
12 or both background investigations and se-  
13 curity clearance determinations for an ap-  
14 plicant, as the case may be, that have been  
15 conducted by a State or local government,  
16 Indian tribe, tribal organization, or the  
17 Bureau of Indian Affairs, within the 5-year  
18 period preceding the application for em-  
19 ployment with the Bureau of Indian Af-  
20 fairs.

21 (ii) QUALITY.—The Secretary shall  
22 only consider previous background inves-  
23 tigations and security clearance determina-  
24 tions for an applicant that have been con-  
25 ducted by a State or local government, In-

1           dian tribe, or tribal organization if the Sec-  
2           retary can verify that those previous inves-  
3           tigations and determinations, as the case  
4           may be, are of a comparable quality and  
5           thoroughness to investigations and deter-  
6           minations carried out by the Bureau of In-  
7           dian Affairs, the Office of Personnel Man-  
8           agement, or another Federal agency.

9           (iii) ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION.—If,  
10          as described in clause (i), the Secretary  
11          considers an existing background investiga-  
12          tion, security clearance determination, or  
13          both, as the case may be, for an applicant  
14          that has been carried out by a State or  
15          local government, Indian tribe, tribal orga-  
16          nization, or the Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
17          the Secretary—

18               (I) may carry out additional in-  
19               vestigation and examination of the ap-  
20               plicant if the Secretary determines  
21               that such additional information is  
22               needed in order to make an appro-  
23               priate determination as to the char-  
24               acter and trustworthiness of the appli-  
25               cant before final adjudication can be

1                   made and a security clearance can be  
2                   issued; and

3                   (II) shall not initiate a new back-  
4                   ground investigation process with the  
5                   National Background Investigations  
6                   Bureau or other Federal agency un-  
7                   less that new background investiga-  
8                   tion process covers a period of time  
9                   that was not covered by a previous  
10                  background investigation process.

11                  (iv) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary  
12                  may enter into a Memorandum of Agree-  
13                  ment with a State or local government, In-  
14                  dian tribe, or tribal organization to develop  
15                  steps to expedite the process of receiving  
16                  and obtaining access to background inves-  
17                  tigation and security clearance determina-  
18                  tions for use in the demonstration pro-  
19                  gram.

20                  (3) SUNSET.—The demonstration program es-  
21                  tablished under this section shall terminate 5 years  
22                  after the date of the commencement of the program.

23                  (b) SUFFICIENCY.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
24                  sion of law, a background investigation conducted or adju-  
25                  dicated by the Secretary pursuant to the demonstration

1 program authorized in subsection (a) that results in the  
2 granting of a security clearance to an applicant for a law  
3 enforcement position in the Bureau of Indian Affairs shall  
4 be sufficient to meet the applicable requirements of the  
5 Office of Personnel Management or other Federal agency  
6 for such investigations.

7 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit  
8 an annual report to the Committee on Indian Affairs of  
9 the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of  
10 the House of Representatives on the demonstration pro-  
11 gram established under subsection (a), which shall include  
12 a description of—

13 (1) the demonstration program and any rel-  
14 evant annual changes or updates to the program;

15 (2) the number of background investigations  
16 carried out under the program;

17 (3) the costs, including any cost savings, associ-  
18 ated with the investigation and adjudication process  
19 under the program;

20 (4) the processing times for the investigation  
21 and adjudication processes under the program;

22 (5) any Memoranda of Agreement entered into  
23 with State or local government, Indian tribe, or trib-  
24 al organization; and

1           (6) any other information that the Secretary  
2 determines to be relevant.

3           (d) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

4           (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 18  
5 months after the date on which the demonstration  
6 program commences under this section, the Comp-  
7 troller General of the United States shall prepare  
8 and submit to Congress an initial report on such  
9 demonstration program.

10           (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months  
11 after the date on which the demonstration program  
12 terminates under subsection (a)(3), the Comptroller  
13 General of the United States shall prepare and sub-  
14 mit to Congress a final report on such demonstra-  
15 tion program.

16           (3) TRIBAL INPUT.—In preparing the reports  
17 under this subsection, the Comptroller General of  
18 the United States shall obtain input from Indian  
19 tribes regarding the demonstration program under  
20 this section.

21 **SEC. 202. MISSING AND MURDERED RESPONSE COORDINA-**  
22 **TION GRANT PROGRAM.**

23           (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Attorney  
24 General shall establish within the Office of Justice Pro-  
25 grams a grant program under which the Attorney General

1 shall make grants to eligible entities described in sub-  
2 section (b) to carry out eligible activities described in sub-  
3 section (c).

4 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a  
6 grant under the grant program established under  
7 subsection (a) an entity shall be—

8 (A) a relevant Tribal stakeholder;

9 (B) subject to paragraph (2), a State, in  
10 consortium with a relevant Tribal stakeholder;

11 (C) a consortium of 2 or more relevant  
12 Tribal stakeholders; or

13 (D) subject to paragraph (2), a consortium  
14 of 2 or more States and 1 or more relevant  
15 Tribal stakeholders.

16 (2) STATE ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible under  
17 subparagraph (B) or (D) of paragraph (1), a State  
18 shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Attorney  
19 General that the State—

20 (A) reports missing persons cases in the  
21 State to the national crime information data-  
22 bases; or

23 (B) if not, has a plan to do so using a  
24 grant received under the grant program estab-  
25 lished under subsection (a).

1 (c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity receiv-  
2 ing a grant under the grant program established under  
3 subsection (a) may use the grant—

4 (1) to establish a statewide or regional center to  
5 document and track missing persons cases of inter-  
6 est to Indian tribes and murder cases of interest to  
7 Indian tribes;

8 (2) to establish a State or regional commission  
9 to respond to, and to improve coordination between  
10 Federal law enforcement agencies, and Tribal, State,  
11 and local law enforcement agencies of the investiga-  
12 tion of, missing persons cases of interest to Indian  
13 tribes and murder cases of interest to Indian tribes;  
14 and

15 (3) to document, develop, and disseminate re-  
16 sources for use by Federal law enforcement agencies  
17 and Tribal, State, and local law enforcement agen-  
18 cies for the coordination of the investigation of miss-  
19 ing persons cases of interest to Indian tribes and  
20 murder cases of interest to Indian tribes.

21 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
22 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the program  
23 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

1 **SEC. 203. GAO STUDY ON FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
2 **AGENCY EVIDENCE COLLECTION, HANDLING,**  
3 **AND PROCESSING.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the  
5 United States shall conduct a study—

6 (1) on the evidence collection, handling, and  
7 processing procedures and practices of the Office of  
8 Justice Services and the Federal Bureau of Inves-  
9 tigation in exercising jurisdiction over crimes involv-  
10 ing Indians or committed in Indian country;

11 (2) on any barriers to evidence collection, han-  
12 dling, and processing by the agencies referred to in  
13 paragraph (1);

14 (3) on the views of law enforcement officials at  
15 the agencies referred to in paragraph (1) and their  
16 counterparts within the Offices of the United States  
17 Attorneys concerning any relationship between—

18 (A) the barriers identified under paragraph  
19 (2); and

20 (B) United States Attorneys declination  
21 rates due to insufficient evidence; and

22 (4) that includes a survey of barriers to evi-  
23 dence collection, handling, and processing faced by  
24 State and local law enforcement agencies that exer-  
25 cise jurisdiction over Indian country under the Act



1 of August 15, 1953 (67 Stat. 588, chapter 505),  
2 and the amendments made by that Act.

3 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the  
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
5 of the United States shall submit to Congress a report  
6 describing the results of the study conducted under sub-  
7 section (a).

8 **SEC. 204. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND TRIBAL LAW**  
9 **ENFORCEMENT OFFICER COUNSELING RE-**  
10 **SOURCES INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINA-**  
11 **TION.**

12 The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting  
13 through the Director of the Indian Health Service and the  
14 Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
15 Services Administration, and the Attorney General shall  
16 coordinate with the Director to ensure that Federal train-  
17 ing materials and resources for establishing and maintain-  
18 ing mental health wellness programs are available to Trib-  
19 al and Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement officers  
20 experiencing occupational stress.

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