

SENATE BILL NO. 1652

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MOSLEY.

7082S.011

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 595, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the office of missing and murdered African American women and girls.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 595, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 one new section, to be known as section 595.326, to read as
3 follows:

595.326. 1. The director of the department of public
2 safety shall establish and maintain an office dedicated to
3 preventing and ending the targeting of African American
4 women and girls within the Missouri department of public
5 safety.

6 2. (1) The director shall appoint an executive
7 director for the office who is a person closely connected to
8 the African American community and who is highly
9 knowledgeable about criminal investigations. The director
10 is encouraged to consider candidates for appointment who are
11 recommended by members of the African American community.

12 (2) The executive director may select, appoint, and
13 compensate out of available funds assistants and employees
14 as necessary to discharge the office's responsibilities.

15 3. (1) The office has the following duties:

16 (a) Advocate in the legislature for legislation that
17 will facilitate the accomplishment of mandates identified in

18 the report of the task force on missing and murdered African
19 American women;

20 (b) Advocate for state agencies to take actions to
21 facilitate the accomplishment of mandates identified in the
22 report of the task force on missing and murdered African
23 American women;

24 (c) Develop recommendations for legislative and agency
25 actions to address injustice in the criminal justice
26 system's response to cases of missing and murdered African
27 American women and girls;

28 (d) Facilitate research to refine the mandates in the
29 report of the task force on missing and murdered African
30 American women and to assess the potential efficacy,
31 feasibility, and impact of the recommendations;

32 (e) Collect data on missing person and homicide cases
33 involving African American women and girls, including the
34 total number of cases, the rate at which the cases are
35 solved, the length of time the cases remain open, and a
36 comparison to similar cases involving different demographic
37 groups;

38 (f) Collect data on Amber alerts, including the total
39 number of Amber alerts issued, the total number of Amber
40 alerts that involve African American girls, and the outcome
41 of cases involving Amber alerts disaggregated by the child's
42 race and sex;

43 (g) Collect data on reports of missing African
44 American girls, including the number classified as voluntary
45 runaways, and a comparison to similar cases involving
46 different demographic groups;

47 (h) Analyze and assess the intersection between cases
48 involving missing and murdered African American women and
49 girls and labor trafficking and sex trafficking;

50 (i) Develop recommendations for legislative, agency,
51 and community actions to address the intersection between
52 cases involving missing and murdered African American women
53 and girls and labor trafficking and sex trafficking;

54 (j) Analyze and assess the intersection between cases
55 involving murdered African American women and girls and
56 domestic violence, including prior instances of domestic
57 violence within the family or relationship, whether an
58 offender had prior convictions for domestic assault or
59 related offenses, and whether the offender used a firearm in
60 the murder or any prior instances of domestic assault;

61 (k) Develop recommendations for legislative, agency,
62 and community actions to address the intersection between
63 cases involving murdered African American women and girls
64 and domestic violence;

65 (l) Develop tools and processes to evaluate the
66 implementation and impact of the efforts of the office;

67 (m) Track and collect Missouri data on missing and
68 murdered African American women and girls, and provide
69 statistics upon public or legislative inquiry;

70 (n) Facilitate technical assistance for local and
71 state law enforcement agencies during active cases involving
72 missing and murdered African American women and girls;

73 (o) Conduct case reviews and report on the results of
74 case reviews for the following types of cases involving
75 missing and murdered African American women and girls: cold
76 cases for missing African American women and girls and death
77 investigation review for cases of African American women and
78 girls ruled as suicide or overdose under suspicious
79 circumstances;

80 (p) Conduct case reviews of the prosecution and
81 sentencing for cases where a perpetrator committed a violent

82 or exploitative crime against an African American woman or
83 girl. These case reviews shall identify those cases where
84 the perpetrator is a repeat offender;

85 (q) Prepare draft legislation as necessary to allow
86 the office access to the data necessary for the office to
87 conduct the reviews required in this section and advocate
88 for passage of that legislation;

89 (r) Review sentencing guidelines for crimes related to
90 missing and murdered African American women and girls,
91 recommend changes if needed, and advocate for consistent
92 implementation of the guidelines across Missouri courts;

93 (s) Develop and maintain communication with relevant
94 divisions in the department of public safety regarding any
95 cases involving missing and murdered African American women
96 and girls and on procedures for investigating cases
97 involving missing and murdered African American women and
98 girls;

99 (t) Coordinate, as relevant, with federal efforts, and
100 efforts in neighboring states.

101 (2) As used in this subdivision, the following terms
102 mean:

103 (a) "Labor trafficking":

104 a. The recruitment, transportation, transfer,
105 harboring, enticement, provision, obtaining, or receipt of a
106 person by any means, in furtherance of:

107 (i) Debt bondage;

108 (ii) Forced or coerced labor or services;

109 (iii) Slavery or practices similar to slavery; or

110 (iv) The removal of organs through the use of coercion
111 or intimidation; or

112 b. Receiving profit or anything of value, knowing or
113 having reason to know it is derived from an act described in
114 subparagraph a. of this paragraph;

115 (b) "Sex trafficking":

116 a. Receiving, recruiting, enticing, harboring,
117 providing, or obtaining by any means an individual to aid in
118 the prostitution of the individual; or

119 b. Receiving profit or anything of value, knowing or
120 having reason to know it is derived from an act described in
121 subparagraph a. of this paragraph.

122 4. In fulfilling its duties, the office may
123 coordinate, as useful, with stakeholder groups that were
124 represented on the task force on missing and murdered
125 African American women and state agencies that are
126 responsible for the systems that play a role in
127 investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating cases involving
128 violence committed against African American women and girls;
129 those who have a role in supporting or advocating for
130 missing or murdered African American women and girls and the
131 people who seek justice for them; and those who represent
132 the interests of African American people. This includes
133 the following entities: Missouri Police Chiefs Association;
134 Missouri Sheriffs' Association; Missouri Peace Officers
135 Association; Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys;
136 United States Attorney's Office; juvenile courts; Missouri
137 Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association; United States
138 Coast Guard; state agencies, including the departments of
139 health and senior services, elementary and secondary
140 education, corrections, and public safety; service providers
141 who offer legal services, advocacy, and other services to
142 African American women and girls; African American women and

143 girls who are survivors; and organizations and leadership
144 from urban and statewide African American communities.

145 5. The office shall report on measurable outcomes
146 achieved to meet its statutory duties, along with specific
147 objectives and outcome measures proposed for the following
148 year. The report shall include data and statistics on
149 missing and murdered African American women and girls in
150 Missouri, including names, dates of disappearance, and dates
151 of death, to the extent the data is publicly available. The
152 office shall submit the report by January fifteenth each
153 year to the chairs and ranking minority members of the
154 legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over public
155 safety.

156 6. There is hereby created in the state treasury the
157 "Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls
158 Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated by the
159 general assembly, gifts, and grants. The state treasurer
160 shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections
161 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve
162 disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and money
163 in the fund shall be used solely by the director of public
164 safety for the purposes authorized by this section.
165 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the
166 contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the
167 biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general
168 revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in
169 the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested.
170 Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
171 credited to the fund.

172 7. (1) The office shall issue grants to community-
173 based organizations that provide services designed to
174 prevent or end the targeting of African American women or

175 girls, or to provide assistance to victims of offenses that
176 targeted African American women or girls.

177 (2) Grant recipients shall use money to:

178 (a) Provide services designed to reduce or prevent
179 crimes or other negative behaviors that target African
180 American women or girls;

181 (b) Provide training to the community about how to
182 handle situations and crimes involving the targeting of
183 African American women and girls, including but not limited
184 to training for law enforcement officers, county attorneys,
185 city attorneys, judges, and other criminal justice partners;
186 or

187 (c) Provide services to African American women and
188 girls who are victims of crimes or other offenses, or to the
189 family members of missing and murdered African American
190 women and girls.

191 (3) Applicants shall apply in a form and manner
192 established by the office.

193 (4) Grant recipients shall provide an annual report to
194 the office that includes:

195 (a) The services provided by the grant recipient;

196 (b) The number of individuals served in the previous
197 year; and

198 (c) Any other information required by the office.

199 (5) On or before February first of each year, the
200 office shall report to the legislative committees of the
201 general assembly with jurisdiction over public safety on the
202 work of grant recipients, including a description of the
203 number of entities awarded grants, the amount of those
204 grants, and the number of individuals served by the grantees.

205 8. The office director shall have access to
206 corrections data and medical data maintained by an agency

207 and classified as private data on individuals or
208 confidential data on individuals to the extent the data is
209 necessary for the office to perform its duties under this
210 section.

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