

SENATE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 40
AN ACT

To amend chapter 595, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to a missing and murdered African American women and girls task force.

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 595.325, to read as
3 follows:

595.325. 1. There is hereby created the "Missing and
2 Murdered African American Women and Girls Task Force" to
3 consist of the following members:

4 (1) The following four members of the general assembly:

5 (a) Two members of the senate, with one member to be
6 appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate and one
7 member to be appointed by the minority floor leader of the
8 senate; and

9 (b) Two members of the house of representatives, with
10 one member to be appointed by the speaker of the house of
11 representatives and one member to be appointed by the
12 minority floor leader of the house of representatives;

13 (2) The director of the department of public safety or
14 his or her designee;

15 (3) Two representatives appointed by the director of
16 the department of public safety from among the following:

17 (a) A member from the Missouri Police Chiefs
18 Association;

19 (b) A member from the Missouri Sheriffs Association; or

20 (c) The superintendent of the Missouri highway patrol
21 or his or her designee;

22 (4) One or more representatives appointed by the
23 director of public safety from among the following:
24 (a) The attorney general or his or her designee;
25 (b) The director of the Missouri office of prosecution
26 services;
27 (c) The president of the Missouri prosecutors
28 association;
29 (d) A judge or attorney working in a juvenile court; or
30 (e) An attorney working in the United States
31 Attorney's Office;
32 (5) A county coroner or a representative from a
33 statewide coroner's association;
34 (6) Three or more representatives appointed by the
35 director of public safety from among the following:
36 (a) A statewide or local organization that provides
37 legal services to African American women and girls;
38 (b) A statewide or local organization that provides
39 advocacy or counseling for African American women and girls
40 who have been victims of violence;
41 (c) A statewide or local organization that provides
42 services to African American women and girls; or
43 (d) An African American woman who is a survivor of
44 gender violence.
45 2. The task force shall appoint a chairperson who is
46 elected by a majority vote of the members of the task
47 force. The task force shall have an initial meeting before
48 October 1, 2025. The members of the task force shall serve
49 without compensation, but shall be entitled to necessary and
50 actual expenses incurred in attending meetings of the task
51 force.
52 3. The task force shall examine and report on the
53 following:

54 (1) The systemic causes behind violence that African
55 American women and girls experience, including patterns and
56 underlying factors that explain why disproportionately high
57 levels of violence occur against African American women and
58 girls, including underlying historical, social, economic,
59 institutional, and cultural factors that may contribute to
60 the violence;

61 (2) Appropriate methods for tracking and collecting
62 data on violence against African American women and girls,
63 including data on missing and murdered African American
64 women and girls;

65 (3) Policies and institutions such as policing, child
66 welfare, coroner practices, and other governmental practices
67 that impact violence against African American women and
68 girls and the investigation and prosecution of crimes of
69 gender violence against African American women and girls;

70 (4) Measures necessary to address and reduce violence
71 against African American women and girls; and

72 (5) Measures to help victims, victims' families, and
73 victims' communities prevent and heal from violence that
74 occurs against African American women and girls.

75 4. The department of public safety shall provide
76 administrative support to the task force.

77 5. On or before December thirty-first of each year,
78 the task force shall submit a report on its findings to the
79 governor and the general assembly.

80 6. The task force shall expire on December 31, 2027,
81 unless extended until December 31, 2029, as determined
82 necessary by the department of public safety.