

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8860

To direct the Attorney General to include certain additional information in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Attorney General to include certain additional information in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Tracking and Report-
5 ing Absent Community-Members Everywhere Act” or the
6 “TRACE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL**
2 **MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS SYS-**
3 **TEM.**

4 The Attorney General, acting through the Director
5 of the National Institute of Justice, shall include in the
6 National Missing and Unidentified Persons System the
7 following data fields:

8 (1) A description of any initial search, rescue,
9 or recovery mission.

10 (2) A description of any ongoing search effort.

11 (3) In the case that remains of a person are
12 found, the cause of death determined by a coroner
13 or forensics investigator.

14 (4) Whether the last known location of the
15 missing person was confirmed or was suspected to
16 have been on Federal land.

17 (5) For missing persons whose last known loca-
18 tion was confirmed or was suspected to have been on
19 Federal land, the following additional data fields:

20 (A) The activity in which the person was
21 engaged or suspected to have been engaged at
22 the time of their disappearance, including any
23 known or suspected destination.

24 (B) A description of any belongings of the
25 person that were recovered, and the location of
26 recovery of each such time.

1 (C) Whether the last known location of the
2 missing person is controlled by the Bureau of
3 Land Management, the Forest Service, the Na-
4 tional Park Service, or the United States Fish
5 and Wildlife Service.

6 (D) Any additional information, including
7 any specific location details, about the unit of
8 Federal land that was the last known location
9 of the missing person.

10 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF OPEN AND ARCHIVED CASES.**

11 (a) OPEN CASES.—Not later than 2 years after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in consulta-
13 tion with Federal, State, or local law enforcement agen-
14 cies, as appropriate, shall each include in the National
15 Missing and Unidentified Persons System the information
16 described in section 2 for each missing person the last
17 known location of whom was confirmed or was suspected
18 to have been on Federal land, and the case of whom is
19 open on the date of enactment of this Act.

20 (b) ARCHIVED CASES.—After the completion of the
21 requirement under subsection (a), the Secretaries, in con-
22 sultation with Federal, State, or local law enforcement
23 agencies, as appropriate, shall each include in the National
24 Missing and Unidentified Persons System the information
25 described in section 2 for each missing person the last

1 known location of whom was confirmed or was suspected
2 to have been on Federal land, and the case of whom was
3 archived.

4 (c) CLARIFICATION.—The requirements of the Secre-
5 taries under this section apply in each case with respect
6 to which the Federal land is under the administrative ju-
7 risdiction of the applicable Secretary, regardless of wheth-
8 er another Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency
9 that is not under the applicable Secretary’s jurisdiction
10 is the lead law enforcement agency investigating the case.

11 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

12 Beginning in the second calendar year that begins
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
14 thereafter, on January 15th, the Attorney General, acting
15 through the Director of the National Institute of Justice,
16 shall submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the
17 House of Representatives and of the Senate a report that
18 contains, for the previous calendar year, the following in-
19 formation:

20 (1) The number of open cases in the National
21 Missing and Unidentified Persons System.

22 (2) The number of cases in the National Miss-
23 ing and Unidentified Persons System that were
24 archived.

1 (3) The number of archived cases entered into
2 the National Missing and Unidentified Persons Sys-
3 tem under subsection (b).

4 (4) The number of cases for each of paragraphs
5 (1) and (2) where the missing person’s last known
6 location was confirmed or was suspected to have
7 been on Federal land.

8 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) The term “Federal land” means land owned
11 by the United States that is under the administra-
12 tive jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the
13 Secretary of the Interior (except land held in trust
14 for the benefit of an Indian Tribe), or the Secretary
15 of Defense only with respect to land and water re-
16 sources projects administered by the Army Corps of
17 Engineers.

18 (2) The term “open case” means an active case
19 and a case that is unsolved but not being actively in-
20 vestigated.

21 (3) The term “Secretaries” means—

22 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture with re-
23 spect to land and water under the administra-
24 tive jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture;

1 (B) the Secretary of the Interior with re-
2 spect to land and water under the administra-
3 tive jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior
4 (except land held in trust for the benefit of an
5 Indian Tribe); and

6 (C) the Secretary of Defense only with re-
7 spect to land and water resources projects ad-
8 ministered by the Army Corps of Engineers.

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