

PUBLIC LAW 116-166—OCT. 10, 2020

NOT INVISIBLE ACT OF 2019

Public Law 116–166
116th Congress

An Act

Oct. 10, 2020
[S. 982]

To increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and of Indians.

Not Invisible Act
of 2019.
25 USC 2801
note.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Not Invisible Act of 2019”.

25 USC 2802
note.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Commission” means the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice Joint Commission on Reducing Violent Crime Against Indians under section 4;

(2) the term “human trafficking” means act or practice described in paragraph (9) or paragraph (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102);

(3) the term “Indian” means a member of an Indian tribe;

(4) the terms “Indian lands” and “Indian tribe” have the meanings given the terms in section 3 of the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 4302); and

(5) the terms “urban centers” and “urban Indian organization” have the meanings given the terms in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

SEC. 3. COORDINATOR OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE PEOPLE.

(a) **COORDINATOR DESIGNATION.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall designate an official within the Office of Justice Services in the Bureau of Indian Affairs who shall—

(1) coordinate prevention efforts, grants, and programs related to the murder of, trafficking of, and missing Indians across Federal agencies, including—

(A) the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

(B) the Department of Justice, including—

(i) the Office of Justice Programs;

(ii) the Office on Violence Against Women;

(iii) the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services;

(iv) the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(v) the Office of Tribal Justice;

(2) ensure prevention efforts, grants, and programs of Federal agencies related to the murder of, trafficking of, and

missing Indians consider the unique challenges of combating crime, violence, and human trafficking of Indians and on Indian lands faced by Tribal communities, urban centers, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal law enforcement, Federal law enforcement, and State and local law enforcement;

(3) work in cooperation with outside organizations with expertise in working with Indian tribes and Indian Tribes to provide victim centered and culturally relevant training to tribal law enforcement, Indian Health Service health care providers, urban Indian organizations, Tribal community members and businesses, on how to effectively identify, respond to and report instances of missing persons, murder, and trafficking within Indian lands and of Indians; and

(4) report directly to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) **REPORT.**—The official designated in subsection (a) shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report to provide information on Federal coordination efforts accomplished over the previous year that includes—

Summaries.

(1) a summary of all coordination activities undertaken in compliance with this section;

(2) a summary of all trainings completed under subsection (a)(3); and

(3) recommendations for improving coordination across Federal agencies and of relevant Federal programs.

Recommendations.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE JOINT COMMISSION ON REDUCING VIOLENT CRIME AGAINST INDIANS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall establish and appoint all members of a joint commission on violent crime on Indian lands and against Indians.

Deadline.
Coordination.
Appointment.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **COMPOSITION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall be composed of members who represent diverse experiences and backgrounds that provide balanced points of view with regard to the duties of the Commission.

(B) **DIVERSITY.**—To the greatest extent practicable, the Secretary of the Interior shall ensure the Commission includes Tribal representatives from diverse geographic areas and of diverse sizes.

(2) **APPOINTMENT.**—The Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall appoint the members to the Commission, including representatives from—

Coordination.

(A) tribal law enforcement;

(B) the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

(C) State and local law enforcement in close proximity to Indian lands, with a letter of recommendation from a local Indian Tribe;

(D) the Victim Services Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(E) the Department of Justice’s Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit;

(F) the Office of Violence Against Women of the Department of Justice;

(G) the Office of Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice;

(H) a United States attorney’s office with experience in cases related to missing persons, murder, or trafficking of Indians or on Indian land;

(I) the Administration for Native Americans of the Office of the Administration for Children & Families of the Department of Health and Human Services;

(J) the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services;

(K) a Tribal judge with experience in cases related to missing persons, murder, or trafficking;

(L) not fewer than 3 Indian Tribes from diverse geographic areas, including 1 Indian tribe located in Alaska, selected from nominations submitted by the Indian Tribe;

(M) not fewer than 2 health care and mental health practitioners and counselors and providers with experience in working with Indian survivors of trafficking and sexual assault, with a letter of recommendation from a local tribal chair or tribal law enforcement officer;

(N) not fewer than 3 national, regional, or urban Indian organizations focused on violence against women and children on Indian lands or against Indians;

(O) at least 2 Indian survivors of human trafficking;

(P) at least 2 family members of missing Indian people;

(Q) at least 2 family members of murdered Indian people;

(R) the National Institute of Justice; and

(S) the Indian Health Service.

(3) PERIODS OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall be appointed for the duration of the Commission.

(4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made and shall not affect the powers or duties of the Commission.

(5) COMPENSATION.—Commission members shall serve without compensation.

(6) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall consider the provision of travel expenses, including per diem, to Commission members when appropriate.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may hold such hearings, meet and act at times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers to be advisable to carry out the duties of the Commission under this section.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall develop recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and Attorney

Coordination.

General on actions the Federal Government can take to help combat violent crime against Indians and within Indian lands, including the development and implementation of recommendations for—

(i) identifying, reporting, and responding to instances of missing persons, murder, and human trafficking on Indian lands and of Indians;

(ii) legislative and administrative changes necessary to use programs, properties, or other resources funded or operated by the Department of the Interior and Department of Justice to combat the crisis of missing or murdered Indians and human trafficking on Indian lands and of Indians;

(iii) tracking and reporting data on instances of missing persons, murder, and human trafficking on Indian lands and of Indians;

(iv) addressing staff shortages and open positions within relevant law enforcement agencies, including issues related to the hiring and retention of law enforcement officers;

(v) coordinating tribal, State, and Federal resources to increase prosecution of murder and human trafficking offenses on Indian lands and of Indians; and

(vi) increasing information sharing with tribal governments on violent crime investigations and prosecutions in Indian lands that were terminated or declined.

(B) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 18 months after the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall make publicly available and submit all recommendations developed under this paragraph to—

Deadline.
Public
information.

(i) the Secretary of the Interior;

(ii) the Attorney General;

(iii) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(iv) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

(v) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(vi) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(C) SECRETARIAL RESPONSE.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Interior and the Attorney General receive the recommendations under paragraph (2), the Secretary and the Attorney General shall each make publicly available and submit a written response to the recommendations to—

Deadline.
Public
information.

(i) the Commission;

(ii) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(iii) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

(iv) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(v) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(d) FACA EXEMPTION.—The Commission shall be exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(e) SUNSET.—The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Approved October 10, 2020.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 982 (H.R. 2438):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 116–509, Pt. 1 (Comm. on the Judiciary) accompanying H.R. 2438.

SENATE REPORTS: No. 116–214 (Comm. on Indian Affairs).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 166 (2020):

Mar. 11, considered and passed Senate.

Sept. 21, considered and passed House.

