HB 2625 A   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Fagan, Sen. Thatcher

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date:	04/30/19
Action:	Do pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote:	7-0-0-0
Yeas:	7 - Bentz, Fagan, Gelser, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher
Fiscal:	Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Gillian Fischer, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	4/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of State Police to study how to increase criminal justice and investigative resources towards future and past cases of missing and murdered Native American women in this state, including Alaska Native women. Requires the Department of State Police to report on the results of the study to an appropriate legislative committee no later than September 15, 2020. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Rebuilding trust between the Native American community and law enforcement agencies
- Inaccurate statistical and census data on missing and murdered Native American women because of frequent misidentification of race of Native American victims
- Cultural competence of responding law enforcement officers
- Providing closure to families of missing or murdered Native American women

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Murder is the third leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women. The 2018 Urban Indian Health Institute Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls reported in 2016 that there were 5,712 cases of murdered and missing indigenous women and girls, which took place at similar rates on reservations and in urban areas. Of these 5,712 cases, only 116 were logged into the Department of Justice (DOJ) database.

House Bill 2625 A requires the Department of State Police to study how Department resources addressing the investigation of these missing and murdered Native American and Alaskan women can be increased and to report back to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2020.