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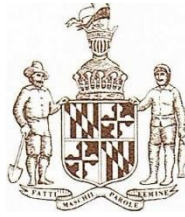
Health and Government Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Public Health and Minority Health Disparities, Chair

Elder and Long-Term Care

Maternal, Infant, and Child Health



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THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB588

Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaskan Native Women and Girls - Day of Awareness and Reporting Requirement

March 17, 2026

Chair Wells, Vice-Chair Kerr, and Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee,

HB588 compels Maryland to join in the recognition of the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) in North America, including its relevance to Indigenous communities in Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic region.

The bill's focus is on **recognition, data collection, interagency coordination, and awareness**, not the creation of new criminal offenses or penalties.

We would:

- **Express solidarity** with victims, survivors, families, and affected Indigenous communities, and affirm Maryland's commitment to awareness, support, and justice.
 - **Encourage** statewide law enforcement agencies to:
Improve the collection of data related to missing and murdered Indigenous people,
 - Identify trends, risk factors, and systemic gaps in reporting and investigations, and
 - Coordinate with regional, tribal, and federal partners to better define the scope of the problem in Maryland.
- **Require** the Governor to formally recognize May 5 as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Maryland.

It is the right thing to do and overdue. I urge a favorable report.

Terri L. Hill, M.D.