
SENATE BILL 5564

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Wagoner, Rolfes, Stanford, Holy, Torres, Dozier, J. Wilson, Fortunato, McCune, Braun, Salomon, Warnick, Shewmake, Randall, Saldaña, L. Wilson, Muzzall, Rivers, Van De Wege, Billig, Conway, Hasegawa, Hunt, Kauffman, Lias, Lovick, Nobles, and Valdez

Read first time 01/25/23. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a reward program for information
2 related to missing or murdered indigenous women and persons, and
3 other missing persons; adding new sections to chapter 43.10 RCW;
4 making an appropriation; and providing an effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.10
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The attorney general is authorized to offer and pay a reward
9 of up to \$10,000 to any person or persons for information leading to:

10 (a) The location of a missing or murdered indigenous woman or
11 person, or other missing person, that is the subject of a missing
12 person report under RCW 13.60.020 or 68.50.320; or

13 (b) The arrest of a specific person or persons convicted of or
14 charged with a criminal offense related to the disappearance of a
15 missing or murdered indigenous woman or person, or other missing
16 person, described in (a) of this subsection.

17 (2) No reward may be paid to any federal, state, or local
18 government or agency employees for information obtained by them in
19 the normal course of their employment.

20 (3) The attorney general shall conduct a public outreach campaign
21 to promote and market the reward in subsection (1) of this section

1 and the Washington state patrol's toll-free telephone hotline
2 established in RCW 13.60.010.

3 (4) The attorney general may adopt rules, policies, and processes
4 to implement this section, including but not limited to developing
5 reward criteria, the amount of reward to be paid, and the method to
6 conduct a public outreach campaign.

7 (5) Subject to the availability of funds in the Washington
8 missing persons reward account, rewards must be paid on a first come,
9 first served basis to those the attorney general determines is
10 eligible for an award.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.10
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 The Washington missing persons reward account is created in the
14 custody of the state treasurer. Moneys from legislative
15 appropriations and transfers, federal funds, public or private
16 donations, gifts, and grants, and any other lawful source may be
17 deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used
18 only for the purposes of section 1 of this act, including the
19 attorney general's administrative costs. Only the attorney general,
20 or the attorney general's designee may authorize expenditures from
21 the account. The account is subject to the allotment procedures under
22 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for
23 expenditures. When the attorney general determines that the balance
24 of the account is insufficient to ensure the payment of rewards, the
25 attorney general must notify the office of financial management, and
26 the chairs and ranking members of the house appropriations committee
27 and the senate ways and means committee.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of \$350,000 is appropriated for
29 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, from the general fund to the
30 Washington missing persons reward account for the purposes of funding
31 a public outreach campaign as described in section 1 of this act. Of
32 the amount appropriated, \$100,000 must be used for rewards.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect July 1, 2024.

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