



Senate Bill 13 Missing in New Mexico Event

Sponsored by: Senator Linda M. Lopez & Representative Andrea Romero

Track SB 13: <https://nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Legislation?Chamber=S&LegType=B&LegNo=13&year=22>

“As a member of the MMIWR Task Force and Community Impact Subcommittee, I am honored to sponsor this legislation that will offer much needed support to families and communities that are longing for answers about their missing loved one. Missing in New Mexico Day event is a first step to improve missing persons reports and offer families the opportunity to highlight their relative’s case with the media and provide support services to promote healing.”

Senator Linda M. Lopez

Senate Bill 13 establishes an annual event to support New Mexicans with missing relatives by bringing together federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement and partners to one location to assist families with filing and updating missing person reports, submitting DNA records to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), and providing opportunities to meet with an investigator to discuss their relatives case. A network of services will be offered to families to help them distribute information to media outlets about their missing relatives case. Healing services such as support groups, onsite counseling, traditional healers, and victim

advocates will also be available.

This Annual Event will:

- 1) **Support** families to elevate their loved one’s case and promote public awareness.
- 2) **Elevate** the visibility of missing persons cases across our state during the annual event and throughout the year.

According to our state’s Missing Persons Clearinghouse, as of February 1, 2022, there are 926 active missing persons and 20 unidentified persons reported across New Mexico in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).





Senate Bill 13 Missing in New Mexico Event

3) **Require** the Department of Public Safety's Missing Persons Clearinghouse to host this event in collaboration with the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, the NM MMIWR Task Force, and other state, federal, tribal and local partners.

4) **Collect** DNA, dental records, fingerprints, photographs and other identifying information to complete the NamUs profile to improve the likelihood that the missing person may be located or identified.

5) **Educate** New Mexicans about missing persons in our state, what they can do to help, and challenges associated with missing persons cases.



The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force has developed this proposal with guidance from agencies hosting similar events, the NamUs Regional Program Specialist, and the Department of Public Safety.

"Indigenous people, particularly women, are missing or murdered at a rate much higher than non-indigenous people. This legislation is critically important to ensure we are doing everything possible to bring our relatives home and ultimately bring justice and healing."

Lynn Trujillo, Cabinet Secretary, NM Indian Affairs Department

The NM Indian Affairs Department is committed to be a resource by advocating for tribal interests at state and federal levels through policy and legislative work, supporting tribes with access to resources, technical assistance and funding opportunities; and connecting tribes with the executive branch, other tribes and with the tools and resources they need to be self-governing and self-sufficient.