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ACR-136 Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Month. (2021-2022)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 136

CHAPTER 83

Relative to Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 08, 2022.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 136, Ramos. Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Month.

This measure would designate the month of May 2022 as Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Month in California.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, In 2016, 5,712 missing and murdered indigenous cases were reported to the National Crime Information Center; and

WHEREAS, According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, homicide is the second to seventh leading cause of death for indigenous women; and

WHEREAS, According to a study conducted on behalf of the United States Department of Justice, in some tribal communities, indigenous women face murder rates 10 times higher than the national average. No such study exists for urban areas; and

WHEREAS, Little data exists on the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous people, and data that is available is incomplete and inadequate; and

WHEREAS, The data that does exist on this issue focuses primarily on indigenous women living on reservations, despite approximately 70 percent of native people living in urban cities; and

WHEREAS, According to the first report conducted by the Urban Indian Health Institute in 2018 on missing and murdered indigenous women in urban cities:

(1) In 27 percent of the missing and murdered indigenous women cases, the victims were 18 years of age or younger.

(2) The average age for missing and murdered indigenous women was 29.

(3) California has the sixth highest death rate of indigenous women in urban cities; and

WHEREAS, According to the most recent census data, California has the largest population of American Indians, more than any other state in the country; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the Assembly hereby designates the month of May 2022 as California's Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.