



## 2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 615

October 31, 2023 - Introduced by Representatives STUBBS, SCHRAA, BROOKS, BALDEH, NOVAK, DRAKE, MOORE OMOKUNDE, SNYDER, O'CONNOR, PALMERI, MAGNAFICI, MADISON, GOYKE, SHELTON, MURSAU, OHNSTAD, CONLEY, ARMSTRONG, TRANEL, ORTIZ-VELEZ, SHANKLAND, EDMING, ANDRACA, JOERS, VINING, CABRERA, CONSIDINE, C. ANDERSON, HURD, BEHNKE, SUBECK, NEUBAUER, HONG, SINICKI, S. JOHNSON, RATCLIFF, MYERS, BRANDTJEN, J. ANDERSON, CLANCY and JACOBSON, cosponsored by Senators JAMES, L. JOHNSON, TAYLOR, AGARD, CARPENTER, LARSON, SMITH, SPREITZER, ROYS and WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Assembly Organization.

1     **AN ACT relating to:** creating a task force on missing and murdered African  
2     American women and girls.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill creates a task force on missing and murdered African American women and girls. The task force must be established by the attorney general and must consist of members who are knowledgeable in crime victims rights or violence protection and who work in a range of relevant positions as specified in the bill. The task force must examine various factors that contribute to violence against African American women and girls and submit to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature by December 15, 2024, a report on actions that can be taken to eliminate violence against African American women and girls.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

3     **SECTION 1. Nonstatutory provisions.**

4     (1) TASK FORCE ON MISSING AND MURDERED AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND GIRLS.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 615****SECTION 1**

1           (a) *Definition.* In this subsection, “nongovernmental organization” means a  
2 nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that provides legal, social, or other  
3 community services.

4           (b) *Membership.* Within 45 days of the effective date of this paragraph, the  
5 attorney general shall establish a special committee under s. 15.04 (1) (c) called the  
6 task force on missing and murdered African American women and girls. The task  
7 force shall consist of the following members, who are knowledgeable in crime victims  
8 rights or violence protection, and who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure  
9 of the attorney general unless otherwise specified:

10           1. Two members of the senate, one appointed by the majority leader and one  
11 appointed by the minority leader.

12           2. Two members of the assembly, one appointed by the speaker of the assembly  
13 and one appointed by the minority leader.

14           3. Two representatives from among the following:

15           a. The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association.

16           b. The Badger State Sheriffs’ Association.

17           c. The division of criminal investigation within the department of justice.

18           4. One or more representatives from among the following:

19           a. The Wisconsin District Attorneys Association.

20           b. A U.S. Attorney’s office in this state.

21           c. A judge or attorney working in juvenile court.

22           5. A county coroner or representative from a statewide coroner’s association or  
23 a representative of the department of health services.

24           6. Three or more representatives from among the following:

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1           a. A statewide or local organization that provides legal services to African  
2 American women and girls.

3           b. A statewide or local organization that provides advocacy or counseling for  
4 African American women and girls who have been victims of violence.

5           c. A statewide or local organization that provides nonlegal services to African  
6 American women and girls.

7           d. The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

8           e. End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin.

9           f. An African American woman who is a survivor of gender violence.

10          (c) *Operation.*

11           1. The task force shall elect a chair and vice-chair from among the members  
12 of the task force and may elect other officers as necessary. The task force shall  
13 convene within 30 days after it is established and shall meet at least quarterly  
14 thereafter, or upon the call of its chair, and may hold meetings throughout the state.  
15 The task force shall meet sufficiently to accomplish the duties identified in par. (d).

16           2. The department of justice shall provide administrative support services to  
17 the task force. The task force may call upon any state agency or officer to assist the  
18 task force, and those agencies or officers shall cooperate with the task force to the  
19 fullest extent possible.

20           3. The department of administration shall reimburse members of the task force  
21 for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in carrying out their functions from  
22 the appropriation under s. 20.505 (1) (ka).

23          (d) *Duties.*

24           1. The task force shall examine all of the following topics:

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1           a. The systemic causes behind violence that African American women and girls  
2 experience, including patterns and underlying factors that explain why  
3 disproportionately high levels of violence occur against African American women  
4 and girls, including underlying historical, generational, social, economic,  
5 institutional, and cultural factors that may contribute to the violence.

6           b. Appropriate methods for tracking and collecting data on violence against  
7 African American women and girls, including data on missing and murdered African  
8 American women and girls.

9           c. Policies and institutions such as policing, child welfare, coroner practices,  
10 and other governmental practices that impact violence against African American  
11 women and girls and the investigation and prosecution of crimes of gender violence  
12 against African American people.

13           d. Measures necessary to address and reduce violence against African  
14 American women and girls.

15           e. Measures to help victims, victims' families, and victims' communities  
16 prevent and heal from violence that occurs against African American women and  
17 girls.

18           2. The task force shall, by December 15, 2024, submit to the appropriate  
19 standing committees of the legislature in the manner provided under s. 13.172 (3)  
20 an annual report that includes all of the following:

21           a. Proposed institutional policies and practices that are effective in reducing  
22 gender violence and increasing the safety of African American women and girls.

23           b. Recommendations to eliminate violence against African American women  
24 and girls.

