

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 244

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 15, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Williams and Amenhotep New Jersey Task Force on Missing Persons.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** establishing the “Williams and Amenhotep
2 New Jersey Task Force on Missing Persons.”

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4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
5 *State of New Jersey:*

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7 1. a. There is established the “Williams and Amenhotep New
8 Jersey Task Force on Missing Persons.”

9 b. The task force shall consist of nine members as follows:

10 (1) the Attorney General, ex officio, or a designee:

11 (2) the Commissioner of Children and Families, ex officio, or a
12 designee;

13 (3) the Commissioner of Human Services, ex officio, or a
14 designee;

15 (4) one member of the Missing Person’s Unit of the Division of
16 State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety,
17 designated by the Attorney General;

18 (5) one member of the New Jersey Human Trafficking Task
19 Force established within the Department of Law and Public Safety,
20 designated by the Attorney General;

21 (6) two public members appointed by the Governor representing
22 a local law enforcement agency, one each based upon the
23 recommendation of the Senate President and the Senate Minority
24 Leader;

25 (7) one public member appointed by the Governor representing a
26 child advocacy organization concerning missing, abducted, or
27 exploited children, based upon the recommendation of the Speaker
28 of the General Assembly; and

29 (8) one public member appointed by the Governor representing
30 an organization concerning missing or trafficked persons, based
31 upon the recommendation of the General Assembly Minority
32 Leader.

33 c. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable after the
34 appointment of a majority of its members, and may meet and hold
35 hearings at such places and times as it shall designate.

36 d. The members of the task force shall serve without
37 compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and other necessary
38 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, within the
39 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
40 force for its purposes.

41 e. The Attorney General’s Office shall provide professional
42 and clerical staff to the task force as may be necessary for the task
43 force's purposes, and the task force shall also be entitled to call
44 upon the services of any State, county, or municipal department,
45 board, commission, or agency, as may be available to it for its
46 purposes.

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The task force membership would include: (1) the Attorney General, ex officio, or a designee; (2) the Commissioner of Children and Families, ex officio, or a designee; (3) the Commissioner of Human Services, ex officio, or a designee; (4) one member of the Missing Person's Unit of the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety, designated by the Attorney General; (5) one member of the New Jersey Human Trafficking Task Force established within the Department of Law and Public Safety, designated by the Attorney General; (6) two public members appointed by the Governor representing a local law enforcement agency, one each based upon the recommendation of the Senate President and the Senate Minority Leader; (7) one public member appointed by the Governor representing a child advocacy organization concerning missing, abducted, or exploited children, based upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly; and (8) one public member appointed by the Governor representing an organization concerning missing or trafficked

1 persons, based upon the recommendation of the General Assembly
2 Minority Leader.

3 The bill provides that within 12 months after the task force's
4 organizational meeting, it would be required to submit a written
5 report to the Governor and to the Legislature. The report is to
6 contain the task force's findings on best practices and the current
7 law enforcement response to reports of missing persons in the State,
8 and any recommendations for legislative or other action. Under the
9 bill, the task force would dissolve three months after submitting the
10 report.

11 The task force is named in honor of two missing young people:
12 Sanaa Amenhotep the 15 year-old daughter of a New Jersey
13 resident who went missing in Columbia, South Carolina and whose
14 body was found three weeks later; and Yasir Williams, a 21 year-
15 old Rutgers University student from East Orange, New Jersey
16 whose body was found in a park pond in Orange, New Jersey two
17 weeks after he went missing.