

Help Find the Missing Act (Billy's Law)
Section by Section Summary

Section 1 – Short Title

This legislation may be referred to as the Help Find the Missing Act or Billy's Law.

Section 2 – Authorization of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

Directs the Attorney General, in coordination with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), to operate and maintain the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) as a national clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases throughout the United States.

This section would also amend the Crime Control Act of 1990 to require cases of missing children to be reported to NamUs.

Section 3 – Information Sharing

Requires that, within one year of enactment, the Attorney General grant the NIJ (or NIJ's designee) access to the FBI's NCIC Missing and Unidentified Persons files in order to allow for case validation and data reconciliation.

It also requires that, within six months, the Attorney General assess the governing statutes, policies, and procedures of both the NCIC and NamUs systems, and provide a plan for the secure and automatic transmission of missing and unidentified persons records that are entered into the NCIC database to the NamUs system.

This section will give the Attorney General, in coordination with the Director of the FBI, one year to promulgate rules governing what information should and should not be transmitted from NCIC to NamUs, in order to avoid the transmission of information that is confidential, private, or otherwise sensitive to the law enforcement agency entering the record.

Section 4 – Report on Best Practices

Within one year of enactment of the law, the Attorney General will be required to issue a report to federal, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies describing best practices for the collection, reporting, and analysis of data and information on missing persons and unidentified human remains.

The report shall also include an overview of the NCIC and NamUs and describe how law enforcement agencies can access and use the databases; detail appropriate and inappropriate uses of the two databases; and describe the standards and protocols of collecting, reporting, and analyzing data on missing persons and unidentified remains.

Section 5 – Report to Congress

Requires the Attorney general to issue a report within one year of enactment of the law and every other year thereafter that describes the state of the NCIC and NamUs databases. Included in the report must be information on the process of information sharing between the databases and the programs that are funded through the incentive grants program established by section four.

Section 6 – Definitions