

1 H.304

2 Introduced by Representatives French of Randolph, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of  
3 Underhill, Haas of Rochester, Martin of Springfield, McAllister  
4 of Highgate, McFaun of Barre Town, Mrowicki of Putney, Orr  
5 of Charlotte, Pugh of South Burlington and Spengler of  
6 Colchester

7 Referred to Committee on

8 Date:

9 Subject: Public safety; missing vulnerable persons; alert

10 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to establish the missing vulnerable  
11 persons alert program that will aid in the recovery of missing persons believed  
12 to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment.

13 An act relating to the missing vulnerable persons alert program

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 1820 is amended to read:

16 § 1820. DEFINITIONS

17 As used in this chapter:

18 \* \* \*

1           (3) “Vulnerable person” means an individual who is impaired due to  
2           brain injury, cognitive impairment, Alzheimer’s disease or another form of  
3           dementia, or a physical, mental, or developmental disability.

4           Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 1829 is added to read:

5           § 1829. VERMONT MISSING VULNERABLE PERSONS ALERT  
6           PROGRAM

7           (a) The department of public safety shall establish the Vermont missing  
8           vulnerable persons alert program to aid in the identification and location of  
9           vulnerable persons who are missing. The department shall administer the  
10          program pursuant to the following:

11          (1) A law enforcement agency which verifies that a vulnerable person is  
12          a missing person shall notify the department of public safety.

13          (2) The department shall establish a procedure for verifying the need to  
14          issue a missing vulnerable persons alert.

15          (3) The department of public safety shall issue an alert over the Vermont  
16          emergency alert system if:

17                (A) a law enforcement agency notifies the department that a  
18                vulnerable person is a missing person;

19                (B) there is sufficient information about the vulnerable person that an  
20                immediate broadcast might help locate the vulnerable person; and

1           (C) the vulnerable person is in danger of imminent death or serious  
2   bodily harm.

3           (4) An alert issued under this section shall be sent to the Federal  
4   Communications Commission's designated state emergency alert system  
5   broadcaster in Vermont. Participating radio and television stations shall  
6   broadcast the alert at intervals established by the department. The alert shall  
7   include all information which the department determines may assist in the safe  
8   recovery of the vulnerable person and instructions explaining how a person  
9   with information related to recovering the vulnerable person may contact a law  
10   enforcement agency.

11          (5) A law enforcement agency which locates the vulnerable person who  
12   is the subject of an alert issued under this section shall immediately notify the  
13   law enforcement agency which requested the missing vulnerable persons alert.

14          (6) An alert issued under this section shall be canceled:

15           (A) if the department notifies the Federal Communications  
16   Commission's designated state emergency alert system broadcaster in Vermont  
17   that the vulnerable person has been located; or

18           (B) at the expiration of a notification period specified by the  
19   department.

- 1        (b) A radio or television station that accurately broadcasts information
- 2        pursuant to this section shall not be liable for civil damages as a result of the
- 3        broadcast of such information.