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H.530

Introduced by Representatives Rogers of Waterville, Noyes of Wolcott, Page  
of Newport City, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of  
Morristown

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Department of Public Safety; emergency management system; Silver  
Alert Program; missing persons alert system

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create an  
emergency alert system for missing individuals who are older or who have a  
psychiatric disability, developmental disability, or cognitive impairment.

An act relating to creating the Vermont Silver Alert Program

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) A “silver alert system” is a rapid response system designed to issue  
and coordinate alerts among law enforcement and the public following the  
unexplained or suspicious disappearance of older individuals and vulnerable  
adults.

1           (2) Vermont is one of only four states that does not have an alert system  
2           in place for missing adults.

3           (3) In December 2020, 89-year-old Clint Casavant of Essex Junction  
4           was missing for several days before being found dead in his car. There was no  
5           silver alert system in place to notify the public of his disappearance during the  
6           several days law enforcement searched for him, believing he may be confused  
7           and not know where he was.

8           Sec. 2. SHORT NAME

9           This act shall be known as “Clint’s Law.”

10          Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 1829 is added to read:

11          § 1829. VERMONT SILVER ALERT PROGRAM

12          The Department of Public Safety shall establish the Vermont Silver Alert  
13          Program to aid in the identification and location of a missing individual who is  
14          60 years of age or older or who has a psychiatric disability, developmental  
15          disability, or cognitive impairment. The Department shall administer the  
16          program pursuant to the following:

17                 (1) A law enforcement agency that verifies the individual is missing  
18                 shall notify the Department.

19                 (2) The Department shall establish a procedure for verifying the need to  
20                 issue a Silver Alert.

1           (3) The Department shall issue an alert over the Vermont Emergency  
2           Alert System if:

3                   (A) a law enforcement agency notifies the Department of a missing  
4           individual covered by the Silver Alert Program;

5                   (B) there is sufficient information about the missing individual that  
6           an immediate broadcast might help locate the individual; and

7                   (C) the individual is in danger of imminent death or serious bodily  
8           harm.

9           (4) An alert issued under this section shall be sent to the Federal  
10           Communications Commission's designated state Emergency Alert System  
11           broadcaster in Vermont. Participating radio and television stations shall  
12           broadcast the alert at intervals established by the Department. The alert shall  
13           include all information that the Department determines may assist in the safe  
14           recovery of the missing individual and instructions explaining how a person  
15           with information related to the missing individual may contact a law  
16           enforcement agency.

17           (5) A law enforcement agency that locates a missing individual who is  
18           the subject of an alert issued under this section shall immediately notify the  
19           law enforcement agency that requested the Silver Alert.

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

2                   (A) if the Department notifies the Federal Communications  
3           Commission's designated state Emergency Alert System broadcaster in  
4           Vermont that the missing individual has been located; or

5                   (B) at the expiration of a notification period specified by the  
6           Department.

7           (7) A radio or television station that accurately broadcasts information  
8           pursuant to this section shall not be liable for civil damages as a result of the  
9           broadcast of such information.

10          Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

11          This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.