

1 S.141

2 Introduced by Senator Westman

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Department of Public Safety; emergency management system; alert
6 program; missing elder

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create an
8 emergency alert system for missing senior residents in the State.

9 An act relating to creating the Vermont Silver Alert Program

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

11 Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 1829 is added to read:

12 § 1829. VERMONT SILVER ALERT PROGRAM

13 The Department of Public Safety shall establish the Vermont Silver Alert
14 Program to aid in the identification and location of a missing elder. As used in
15 this section, “elder” means a missing person 60 years of age or older. The
16 Department shall administer the 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 elder;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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