



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

***Raised Bill No. 5266***

LCO No. 1514



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:  
(VA)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GREEN ALERT SYSTEM FOR MISSING VETERANS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2020*) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Missing veteran" means any person who is reported to, or  
3 identified by, a law enforcement agency as a missing person and is a  
4 veteran.

5 (2) "Veteran" means any person who served in the armed forces, as  
6 defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes.

7 (3) "Green Alert" means an alert issued through the Green Alert  
8 communications network, as established in subsection (b) of this section.

9 (b) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
10 shall, within available appropriations, establish and administer a  
11 communications network, to be known as the Green Alert  
12 communications network, to provide assistance to a state or local law  
13 enforcement agency searching for any missing veteran.

14 (c) (1) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public  
15 Protection shall designate an employee of the Department of Emergency  
16 Services and Public Protection to act as the coordinator of the Green  
17 Alert communications network.

18 (2) The coordinator of the Green Alert communications network shall  
19 develop proposed protocols for efforts to recover missing veterans and  
20 to reduce the number of veterans who are reported missing, including  
21 protocols for procedures that are needed from the time of initial  
22 notification of a law enforcement agency that the veteran is missing  
23 through the time of the return of the veteran to his or her family or  
24 conservator.

25 (d) Not later than October 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, the  
26 coordinator of the Green Alert communications network shall submit to  
27 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
28 cognizance of matters relating to military and veterans' affairs and  
29 public safety, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
30 general statutes, a report on the activities of the coordinator, the number  
31 of Green Alerts issued, the number of individuals located successfully,  
32 the average period of time between the issuance of a Green Alert and  
33 the location of the individual for whom such alert was issued and any  
34 other information that the coordinator deems appropriate.

35 (e) (1) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection,  
36 in consultation with the Military Department and the Department of  
37 Veterans Affairs, shall adopt regulations in accordance with the  
38 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes to establish minimum  
39 standards for (A) the issuance of alerts through the Green Alert  
40 communications network, and (B) the extent of the dissemination of  
41 alerts issued through the network.

42 (2) The minimum standards shall provide that:

43 (A) Appropriate information relating to the special needs of a missing  
44 veteran, including health care needs, are disseminated to the  
45 appropriate state or local law enforcement agency;

46 (B) Dissemination of an alert through the Green Alert  
47 communications network be limited to the geographic areas that the  
48 missing veteran could reasonably reach, considering the missing  
49 veteran's circumstances and physical and mental condition, the modes  
50 of transportation available to the missing veteran and the circumstances  
51 of the disappearance;

52 (C) Alerts issued through the Green Alert communications network  
53 comply with all applicable federal, state and local privacy laws and  
54 regulations; and

55 (D) Civil liberties and sensitive medical information of missing  
56 veterans are protected.

57 Sec. 2. Section 7-282c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
58 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2020*):

59 Any municipal police department which receives a report of (1) a  
60 missing child or missing youth under eighteen years of age, [or] (2) a  
61 missing person who is eligible for assistance under subsection (a) of  
62 section 29-1f, as amended by this act, or (3) a missing veteran, as defined  
63 in subsection (a) of section 1 of this act, shall immediately accept such  
64 report for filing and inform all on-duty police officers of the existence of  
65 the missing child, missing youth, [or] missing person or missing veteran  
66 report and communicate the report to other appropriate law  
67 enforcement agencies.

68 Sec. 3. Section 29-1f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
69 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2020*):

70 (a) The clearinghouse established under section 29-1e shall collect,  
71 process, maintain and disseminate information to assist in the location  
72 of any missing person who (1) is eighteen years of age or older and has  
73 a mental impairment, [or] (2) is sixty-five years of age or older, or (3) is  
74 a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 1 of this act, provided a  
75 missing person report prepared by the Department of Emergency  
76 Services and Public Protection has been filed by such missing person's

77 relative, guardian, conservator or agent appointed by the missing  
 78 person in accordance with sections 1-350 to 1-353b, inclusive, any health  
 79 care representative appointed by the missing person in accordance with  
 80 section 19a-576 or a nursing home administrator, as defined in section  
 81 19a-511, or, pursuant to section 17a-465b, by an employee of the  
 82 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services who is certified  
 83 under the provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive. Such  
 84 relative, guardian, conservator, agent, health care representative,  
 85 nursing home administrator or employee shall attest under penalty of  
 86 perjury that the missing person (A) is eighteen years of age or older and  
 87 has a mental impairment, [or] (B) is sixty-five years of age or older, or  
 88 (C) is a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 1 of this act. No  
 89 other proof shall be required in order to verify that the missing person  
 90 meets the criteria to be eligible for assistance under this subsection. Such  
 91 relative, guardian, conservator, agent, health care representative,  
 92 nursing home administrator or employee who files a missing person  
 93 report shall immediately notify the clearinghouse or law enforcement  
 94 agency if the missing person's location has been determined.

95 (b) Subject to available resources, the clearinghouse established by  
 96 section 29-1e may collect, process, maintain and disseminate  
 97 information to assist in the location of missing persons other than  
 98 children and those persons who are eligible for assistance under  
 99 subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	7-282c
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	29-1f

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a Green Alert system for missing veterans.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*