



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Committee Bill No. 778**

LCO No. 5056



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, 2019*) (a) As used in this  
2 section:

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

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

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

11 (b) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
12 shall, within available appropriations, establish and administer a  
13 communications network, to be known as the Green Alert  
14 communications network, to provide assistance to the search efforts of

15 a state or local law enforcement agency for any missing veteran.

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

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

27 (d) Not later than October 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the  
28 coordinator of the Green Alert communications network shall submit  
29 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
30 cognizance of matters relating to military and veterans' affairs and the  
31 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance  
32 of matters relating to public safety, in accordance with the provisions  
33 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, a report on the activities of the  
34 coordinator, the number of Green Alerts issued, the number of  
35 individuals located successfully, the average period of time between  
36 the issuance of a Green Alert and the location of the individual for  
37 whom such alert was issued and any other information that the  
38 coordinator deems appropriate.

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

46 (2) (A) The minimum standards shall provide that appropriate  
47 information relating to the special needs of a missing veteran,  
48 including health care needs, are disseminated to the appropriate state  
49 or local law enforcement agency.

50 (B) The minimum standards shall provide that the dissemination of  
51 an alert through the Green Alert communications network be limited  
52 to the geographic areas that the missing veteran could reasonably  
53 reach, considering the missing veteran's circumstances and physical  
54 and mental condition, the modes of transportation available to the  
55 missing veteran and the circumstances of the disappearance.

56 (C) The minimum standards shall ensure that alerts issued through  
57 the Green Alert communications network comply with all applicable  
58 federal, state and local privacy laws and regulations.

59 (D) The minimum standards shall include standards that  
60 specifically provide for the protection of the civil liberties and sensitive  
61 medical information of missing veterans.

62 Sec. 2. Section 7-282c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
63 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

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

73 Sec. 3. Section 29-1f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
74 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

75 (a) The clearinghouse established under section 29-1e shall collect,

76 process, maintain and disseminate information to assist in the location  
77 of any missing person who (1) is eighteen years of age or older and has  
78 a mental impairment, [or] (2) is sixty-five years of age or older, or (3) is  
79 a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 1 of this act, provided  
80 a missing person report prepared by the Department of Emergency  
81 Services and Public Protection has been filed by such missing person's  
82 relative, guardian, conservator or agent appointed by the missing  
83 person in accordance with sections 1-350 to 1-353b, inclusive, any  
84 health care representative appointed by the missing person in  
85 accordance with section 19a-576 or a nursing home administrator, as  
86 defined in section 19a-511, or, pursuant to section 17a-465b, by an  
87 employee of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
88 who is certified under the provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e,  
89 inclusive. Such relative, guardian, conservator, agent, health care  
90 representative, nursing home administrator or employee shall attest  
91 under penalty of perjury that the missing person (A) is eighteen years  
92 of age or older and has a mental impairment, [or] (B) is sixty-five years  
93 of age or older, or (C) is a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of  
94 section 1 of this act. No other proof shall be required in order to verify  
95 that the missing person meets the criteria to be eligible for assistance  
96 under this subsection. Such relative, guardian, conservator, agent,  
97 health care representative, nursing home administrator or employee  
98 who files a missing person report shall immediately notify the  
99 clearinghouse or law enforcement agency if the missing person's  
100 location has been determined.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	7-282c
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	29-1f

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a green alert system for locating 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.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. BERTHEL, 32nd Dist.; SEN. SAMPSON, 16th Dist.  
SEN. KISSEL, 7th Dist.; REP. ZAWISTOWSKI, 61st Dist.

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