

SENATE BILL 1441

By Haynes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38,
Chapter 6, Part 1, relative to establishing the
Silver Alert system.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

§ 38-6-121.

(a) There is established within the Tennessee bureau of investigation (TBI) the Silver Alert system. The purpose of the Silver Alert system is to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding a missing person who is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment.

(b) If the TBI receives a report that involves a missing person who is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment, for the protection of the missing person from potential abuse or other physical harm, neglect, or exploitation, the TBI shall issue an alert providing for rapid dissemination of information statewide regarding the missing person. The TBI shall make every effort to disseminate the information as quickly as possible when the person's status as missing has been reported to a law enforcement agency.

(c) The TBI shall adopt uniform guidelines and procedures for issuing an alert for missing persons believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment and shall provide education and training to encourage radio and television broadcasters to participate in the alert. The guidelines and procedures shall ensure that specific health information about the missing person is not made public through the alert or otherwise.

(d) The TBI shall consult with the department of transportation and develop a procedure for the use of overhead permanent changeable message signs to provide information on the missing adult meeting the criteria of this section when information is available that would enable motorists to assist in the recovery of the missing person. The TBI and the department of transportation shall develop guidelines for the content, length, and frequency of any message to be placed on an overhead permanent changeable message sign.

(e) The TBI shall use the statewide infrastructure of the America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Alert to the extent permissible to facilitate the Silver Alert system.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.