
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1021

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Appleton, Orwall, Robinson, Bergquist, Cody, Hudgins, Senn, Santos, and Fey)

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a silver alert system; amending RCW
2 13.60.010; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington
5 state's elderly population is growing and the number of individuals
6 with dementia is increasing. The legislature further finds that
7 approximately sixty percent of individuals with dementia will wander
8 at least once and, that if not found within twenty-four hours, up to
9 half of wandering seniors with dementia will suffer serious injury or
10 death. The legislature further finds that the state of Washington has
11 a compelling interest in protecting the safety of vulnerable citizens
12 with cognitive impairments. The legislature further finds that
13 creating a public notification system to broadcast information about
14 missing persons with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or other mental
15 disabilities to aid in their safe return will help prevent
16 unnecessary suffering and death.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.60.010 and 2013 c 285 s 1 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1) The Washington state patrol shall establish a missing
20 children and endangered person clearinghouse which shall include the

1 maintenance and operation of a toll-free telephone hotline. The
2 clearinghouse shall distribute information to local law enforcement
3 agencies, school districts, the department of social and health
4 services, and the general public regarding missing children and
5 endangered persons. The information shall include pictures,
6 bulletins, training sessions, reports, and biographical materials
7 that will assist in local law enforcement efforts to locate missing
8 children and endangered persons. The state patrol shall also maintain
9 a regularly updated computerized link with national and other
10 statewide missing person systems or clearinghouses, and within
11 existing resources, shall develop and implement a plan, commonly
12 known as an "amber alert plan" or an "endangered missing person
13 advisory plan((~~7~~))" which includes a "silver alert" designation for
14 voluntary cooperation between local, state, tribal, and other law
15 enforcement agencies, state government agencies, radio and television
16 stations, cable and satellite systems, and social media pages and
17 sites to enhance the public's ability to assist in recovering
18 abducted children and missing endangered persons consistent with the
19 state endangered missing person advisory plan.

20 (2) For the purposes of this chapter:

21 (a) "Child" or "children" means an individual under eighteen
22 years of age.

23 (b) "Missing endangered person" means a person (~~(with a~~
24 ~~developmental disability as defined in RCW 71A.10.020(4) or a~~
25 ~~vulnerable adult as defined in RCW 74.34.020(17),)~~) who is believed
26 to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical
27 disability, in combination with environmental or weather conditions,
28 or is believed to be unable to return to safety without assistance
29 and who is:

30 (i) A person with a developmental disability as defined in RCW
31 71A.10.020(5);

32 (ii) A vulnerable adult as defined in RCW 74.34.020(17); or

33 (iii) A person who has been diagnosed as having Alzheimer's
34 disease or other age-related dementia.

35 (c) "Silver alert" means the designated title of a missing
36 endangered person advisory that will be used on a variable message
37 sign and text of the highway advisory radio message when used as part

1 of an activated advisory to assist in the recovery of a missing
2 endangered person age sixty or older.

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