

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 265

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCHATZ.

Read 1st time January 9, 2017, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

1223S.011

AN ACT

To amend chapter 650, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to the blue alert system, with a penalty provision.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 650, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 650.520 and 650.522, to read as follows:

650.520. 1. There is hereby created a statewide program called the "Blue Alert System" referred to in this section as the "system" to aid in the identification, location, and apprehension of any individual or individuals suspected of killing or seriously wounding any local, state, or federal law enforcement officer.

2. For the purposes of this section, "law enforcement officer" means any public servant having both the power and duty to make arrests for violations of the laws of this state, and federal law enforcement officers authorized to carry firearms and to make arrests for violations of the laws of the United States.

3. The department of public safety shall develop regions to provide the system. The department of public safety shall coordinate local law enforcement agencies and public commercial television and radio broadcasters to provide an effective system. In the event that a local law enforcement agency opts not to set up a system and a killing or serious wounding of a law enforcement officer occurs within the jurisdiction, it shall notify the department of public safety who will notify local media in the region.

4. The blue alert system shall include all state agencies capable of providing urgent and timely information to the public together with broadcasters and other private entities that volunteer to participate in

22 the dissemination of urgent public information. At a minimum, the blue
23 alert system shall include the department of public safety, highway
24 patrol, department of transportation, and Missouri lottery.

25 5. The department of public safety shall have the authority to
26 notify other regions upon verification that the criteria established by
27 the oversight committee has been met.

28 6. Participation in a blue alert system is entirely at the option
29 of local law enforcement agencies and federally licensed radio and
30 television broadcasters.

31 7. Any person who knowingly makes a false report that triggers
32 an alert under this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

650.522. 1. There is hereby created the "Blue Alert System
2 Oversight Committee", whose primary duty shall be to develop criteria
3 and procedures for the blue alert system and shall be housed within the
4 department of public safety. The committee shall regularly review the
5 function of the blue alert system and revise its criteria and procedures
6 in cooperation with the department of public safety to provide for
7 efficient and effective public notification. As soon as practicable, the
8 committee shall adopt criteria and procedures to expand the blue alert
9 system to provide urgent public alerts related to homeland security,
10 criminal acts, health emergencies, and other imminent dangers to the
11 public health and welfare.

12 2. The blue alert system oversight committee shall consist of ten
13 members of which seven members shall be appointed by the governor
14 with the advice and consent of the senate. Such members shall
15 represent the following entities: two representatives of the Missouri
16 Sheriffs' Association; two representatives of the Missouri Police Chiefs
17 Association; one representative of small market radio broadcasters; one
18 representative of large market radio broadcasters; and one
19 representative of television broadcasters. The director of the
20 department of public safety shall also be a member of the committee
21 and shall serve as chair of the committee. Additional members shall
22 include two representatives of the highway patrol.

23 3. Members of the oversight committee shall serve a term of four
24 years; except that, members first appointed to the committee shall have
25 staggered terms of two, three, and four years and shall serve until their
26 successor is duly appointed and qualified.

27 4. Members of the oversight committee shall serve without
28 compensation; except that, members shall be reimbursed for their
29 actual and necessary expenses required for the discharge of their
30 duties.

31 5. The blue alert system oversight committee shall promulgate
32 rules for the implementation of the blue alert system. Any rule or
33 portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is
34 created under the authority delegated in this section shall become
35 effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions
36 of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and
37 chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the
38 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the
39 effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held
40 unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule
41 proposed or adopted after August 28, 2017, shall be invalid and void.

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Bill

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