

SENATE BILL NO. 1409

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BURGER.

5020S.011

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 650, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the establishment of an alert system for missing persons with developmental disabilities.

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

Section A. Chapter 650, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 one new section, to be known as section 650.535, to read as
3 follows:

650.535. 1. There is hereby created within the
2 department of public safety a statewide program called the
3 "Purple Alert System" to aid in the identification and
4 location of missing persons with developmental disabilities
5 whose disappearance poses a credible threat of immediate
6 danger or serious bodily harm to themselves through
7 immediate and effective community and emergency response.

8 2. For purposes of this section, "developmental
9 disability" includes a mental or cognitive disability that
10 is not Alzheimer's disease or a dementia-related disorder;
11 an intellectual disability; a brain injury; or other
12 physical, mental, or emotional disabilities that are not
13 related to substance abuse; or any combination of such
14 conditions.

15 3. Before July 1, 2027, the department of public
16 safety, in cooperation with the state highway patrol,
17 department of transportation, department of health and

senior services, the state lottery, and local law enforcement agencies shall:

(1) Develop a training program and alert system for missing persons who have developmental disabilities that is compatible with existing alert systems in the state. The training program shall implement crisis intervention team training to equip law enforcement officers with the skills necessary to understand developmental disabilities, to de-escalate interactions with persons in crisis, to facilitate appropriate interventions, and to respond effectively to a reported missing person emergency when the person has a developmental disability;

(2) Establish policies and procedures for responding to a reported missing person emergency when the person has a developmental disability. The policies shall, at a minimum, provide for the following:

(a) Immediate and widespread dissemination of critical information when a person who has a developmental disability is reported missing;

(b) Enhancement of emergency response teams' competence by informing them of the unique behaviors and needs of persons with developmental disabilities; and

(c) Measures to increase public awareness and understanding of the risks associated with developmental disability-related elopement to foster community support for persons with developmental disabilities; and

(3) Require a law enforcement agency to do the following, at a minimum, upon receiving a report:

(a) Contact media outlets in the affected area or surrounding jurisdictions;

(b) Inform all on-duty law enforcement officers of the reported missing person with a developmental disability; and

50 (c) Communicate the report to all other law
51 enforcement agencies in the counties surrounding the county
52 in which the report is filed.

53 4. The department of public safety shall administer
54 and promulgate rules for the implementation of the alert
55 system established under this section. Any rule or portion
56 of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that
57 is created under the authority delegated in this section
58 shall become effective only if it complies with and is
59 subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if
60 applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536
61 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the
62 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay
63 the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
64 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of
65 rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after
66 August 28, 2026, shall be invalid and void.

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