

SENATE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1840
AN ACT

To amend chapters 301 and 650, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to law enforcement interaction with persons with disabilities, with a contingent effective date.

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

Section A. Chapters 301 and 650, RSMo, are amended by
2 adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 301.287
3 and 650.535, to read as follows:

301.287. 1. This section shall be known and referred
2 to as "Mason's Law".

3 2. Beginning January 1, 2027, a resident of this state
4 with a health condition or disability that limits or impairs
5 the ability to effectively communicate with law enforcement
6 may, at any time, apply to the department of revenue for a
7 designation that shall be associated with the person's motor
8 vehicle license plate number and available to law
9 enforcement under the Missouri uniform law enforcement
10 system (MULES) established under chapter 43.

11 3. The initial application, which shall be on a form
12 prescribed by the department and made available on the
13 department's website, shall be signed by a physician
14 licensed under chapter 334, or a psychologist licensed under
15 chapter 337, certifying that:

16 (1) The applicant or the applicant's child, parent, or
17 spouse has a physical or mental health condition that is
18 likely to impair the ability to effectively communicate with
19 law enforcement; and

20 (2) The physician or psychologist has determined that
21 the applicant or the applicant's child, parent, or spouse
22 will have the communication impairment for at least five
23 years.

24 4. Upon submission of an application and approval by
25 the department, the department shall notify the Missouri
26 state highway patrol of the resident's approved application
27 and the highway patrol shall prepare an entry in the
28 Missouri uniform law enforcement system (MULES) that
29 indicates that the applicant or the applicant's child,
30 parent, or spouse has a physical or mental health condition
31 that may impair the ability to effectively communicate with
32 law enforcement. Such entry shall remain active for a
33 period of five years, unless the applicant requests that
34 such designation be removed from the system. Upon
35 expiration of the five-year period, the designation in MULES
36 may be reactivated upon the filing of a renewal form with
37 the department signed by a physician licensed under chapter
38 334, or a psychologist licensed under chapter 337,
39 certifying that:

40 (1) The applicant or the applicant's child, parent, or
41 spouse has a physical or mental health condition that is
42 likely to impair the ability to effectively communicate with
43 law enforcement; and

44 (2) The physician or psychologist has determined that
45 the applicant or the applicant's child, parent, or spouse
46 will have the communication impairment for at least five
47 years.

48 5. The department of public safety shall issue
49 guidance and education materials to all law enforcement
50 agencies in this state to promote awareness of the
51 designation established under this section.

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

650.535. 1. This section shall be known and may be
2 cited as "RJ's Law".

3 2. There is hereby created within the department of
4 public safety a statewide program called the "Purple Alert
5 System" to aid in the identification and location, through
6 immediate and effective community and emergency response, of
7 missing persons with developmental disabilities whose
8 disappearance poses a credible threat of immediate danger or
9 serious bodily harm to the missing persons and who are
10 believed to be unable to return to safety without assistance.

11 3. For purposes of this section, "developmental
12 disability" includes the following:

13 (1) A mental or cognitive disability, which shall not
14 include, for persons sixty years of age or older,
15 Alzheimer's disease or a dementia-related disorder;

- 16 (2) An intellectual disability;
17 (3) A brain injury;
18 (4) Other physical, mental, or emotional disabilities
19 that are not related to substance abuse; or
20 (5) Any combination of such conditions.

21 4. Before July 1, 2027, the department of public
22 safety, in cooperation with the Missouri state highway
23 patrol, department of transportation, department of mental
24 health, local developmental disability resource boards, the
25 state lottery, and local law enforcement agencies shall:

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

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

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

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

46 (c) Measures to increase public awareness and
47 understanding of the risks associated with developmental

48 disability-related elopement to foster community support for
49 persons with developmental disabilities; and

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

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

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

56 (c) Communicate the report to all other law
57 enforcement agencies in the counties surrounding the county
58 in which the report is filed.

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

Section B. The enactment of section 301.287 of this
2 act shall take effect as soon as technologically possible
3 following the development and maintenance of a modernized,
4 integrated system for the titling of vehicles, issuance and
5 renewal of vehicle registrations, issuance and renewal of
6 driver's licenses and identification cards, and perfection
7 and release of liens and encumbrances on vehicles, to be
8 funded by the motor vehicle administration technology fund

9 as created in section 301.558. Following the development of
10 the system, the director of the department of revenue shall
11 notify the governor, the secretary of state, and the revisor
12 of statutes, and shall implement the provisions of section
13 301.287 of this act.