
SENATE BILL 5264

State of Washington **64th Legislature** **2015 Regular Session**

By Senators Bailey, Parlette, Warnick, Keiser, Jayapal, and Braun

Read first time 01/16/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

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 while
13 the Washington state patrol does maintain an "endangered missing
14 person advisory plan" which creates a public notification system to
15 locate missing persons with developmental disabilities and vulnerable
16 adults, the public may not fully understand that this program is
17 primarily designed to locate adults with special needs. The
18 legislature further finds that renaming this important public
19 notification system will help the public to understand they are
20 looking for a person with a developmental disability or a vulnerable
21 adult. This will help to locate missing persons with Alzheimer's

1 disease, dementia, or other mental disabilities aid in their safe
2 return, and will help prevent unnecessary suffering and death.

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

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

26 (2) For the purposes of this chapter:

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

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

35 (i) A person with a developmental disability as defined in RCW
36 71A.10.020(5);

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

38 (iii) A person who has been diagnosed as having Alzheimer's
39 disease, dementia, or other mental disability.

1 (c) "Silver alert" means a quick response system designed to
2 issue and coordinate alerts following the disappearance of a missing
3 endangered person.

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