
SENATE BILL 5822

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators Torres, Dozier, Wagoner, and J. Wilson

Prefiled 12/03/25. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to missing persons alert systems; amending RCW
2 13.60.010 and 13.60.050; adding a new section to chapter 13.60 RCW;
3 and providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.60.010 and 2022 c 256 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The Washington state patrol shall establish a missing
8 children and endangered person clearinghouse which shall include the
9 maintenance and operation of a toll-free telephone hotline. The
10 clearinghouse shall distribute information to local law enforcement
11 agencies, school districts, the department of children, youth, and
12 families, and the general public regarding missing children and
13 endangered persons. The information shall include pictures,
14 bulletins, training sessions, reports, and biographical materials
15 that will assist in local law enforcement efforts to locate missing
16 children and endangered persons. The state patrol shall also maintain
17 a regularly updated computerized link with national and other
18 statewide missing person systems or clearinghouses, and, within
19 existing resources, shall develop and implement a plan, commonly
20 known as an "amber alert plan" which includes the "amber alert"
21 designation; or an "endangered missing person advisory plan" which

1 includes "endangered person alert," "silver alert," and "missing
2 indigenous person alert" designations; for ~~((voluntary))~~ mandatory
3 cooperation ~~((between))~~ by local, state, tribal, and other law
4 enforcement agencies ~~((τ))~~ and state government agencies ~~((τ))~~; and
5 voluntary cooperation by radio and television stations, cable and
6 satellite systems, and social media pages and sites to enhance the
7 public's ability to assist in recovering abducted children and
8 missing endangered persons consistent with the state endangered
9 missing person advisory plan.

10 (2) For the purposes of this chapter:

11 (a) "Amber alert" means the designated title of a missing child
12 advisory that will be used on a variable message sign and text of the
13 highway advisory radio message when used as part of an activated
14 advisory to assist in the recovery of a missing child who meets the
15 following criteria:

16 (i) Is known or reasonably suspected to have been abducted, or
17 has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances;

18 (ii) As a result of the circumstances in (a)(i) of this
19 subsection, is believed to be in imminent danger of death, serious
20 bodily injury, or trafficking;

21 (iii) There is enough descriptive information available to
22 believe that an amber alert will assist in the recovery of the child;
23 and

24 (iv) The incident must be reported to and investigated by a law
25 enforcement agency, and the child, suspect, and vehicle information
26 are entered into the national crime information center if sufficient
27 information is available.

28 (b) "Child" or "children" means an individual under 18 years of
29 age.

30 ~~((b))~~ (c) "Endangered person alert" means the designated title
31 of a missing endangered person advisory that will be used on a
32 variable message sign and text of the highway advisory radio message
33 when used as part of an activated advisory to assist in the recovery
34 of a missing endangered person who does not meet the criteria of (e)
35 or (f) of this subsection.

36 (d) "Missing endangered person" means:

37 (i) A missing indigenous woman or indigenous person; ~~((eτ))~~

38 (ii) A person who is believed to be in danger because of age,
39 health, mental or physical disability, in combination with

1 environmental or weather conditions, or is believed to be unable to
2 return to safety without assistance and who is:

3 (A) A person with a developmental disability as defined in RCW
4 71A.10.020(~~(5)~~);

5 (B) A vulnerable adult as defined in RCW 74.34.020; or

6 (C) A person who has been diagnosed as having Alzheimer's disease
7 or other age-related dementia; or

8 (iii) A missing person who may be a victim of trafficking as
9 defined in RCW 9A.40.100.

10 (~~(e)~~) (e) "Missing indigenous person alert" means the
11 designated title of a missing endangered person advisory that will be
12 used on a variable message sign and text of the highway advisory
13 radio message when used as part of an activated advisory to assist in
14 the recovery of a missing indigenous person.

15 (~~(d)~~) (f) "Silver alert" means the designated title of a
16 missing endangered person advisory that will be used on a variable
17 message sign and text of the highway advisory radio message when used
18 as part of an activated advisory to assist in the recovery of a
19 missing endangered person age 60 or older.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.60.050 and 2009 c 20 s 2 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 Within existing resources, the Washington state patrol shall
23 develop and implement a plan, commonly known as an "endangered
24 missing person advisory plan," for (~~voluntary~~) mandatory
25 cooperation (~~between~~) by local, state, tribal, and other law
26 enforcement agencies(~~(r)~~) and state government agencies(~~(r)~~); and
27 voluntary cooperation by radio and television stations(~~(r)~~) and cable
28 and satellite systems to enhance the public's ability to assist in
29 recovering endangered missing persons who do not qualify for
30 inclusion in an amber alert.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 13.60
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 By March 31, 2027, and annually thereafter, and in compliance
34 with RCW 43.01.036, the Washington state patrol must prepare and
35 submit an annual report to the governor and appropriate committees of
36 the legislature. The report must cover the prior calendar year and
37 include, at a minimum, the following information:

1 (1) The number of missing persons alert activations and the
2 number of children involved;

3 (2) Outcomes, including the number of individuals recovered safe,
4 recovered deceased, or still missing, and the number of recoveries
5 attributable to missing persons alerts;

6 (3) The average and median times from initial report to alert
7 issuance, and from alert issuance to recovery, if available;

8 (4) The number of activations that were canceled or later
9 determined to be unfounded;

10 (5) The number of cross-jurisdictional activations and
11 activations involving tribal jurisdictions;

12 (6) Staffing, training, and budget information specific to
13 missing persons alert coordination;

14 (7) A summary of public outreach activities and technology used,
15 including the emergency alert system and social media;

16 (8) Two case summaries demonstrating missing persons alerts
17 system performance, provided that personal identifying information
18 and confidential information is redacted, including:

19 (a) One case summary illustrating a successful outcome; and
20 (b) One case summary illustrating a significant challenge; and
21 (9) Recommendations for legislative or administrative action, if
22 necessary, including any estimated costs.

23 This section expires March 31, 2030.

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