

SENATE BILL 817

E4

4r1923
CF HB 195

By: **Senators Ellis and Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Missing Persons With Cognitive Impairment – Purple Alert**
3 **Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Purple Alert Program to disseminate information to
5 assist in locating a certain missing person with certain cognitive impairments; and
6 generally relating to the establishment of a Purple Alert Program.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Public Safety

9 Section 3–608

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Public Safety**

15 **3–608.**

16 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
17 **INDICATED.**

18 **(2) “CAREGIVER” MEANS A PARENT, SPOUSE, GUARDIAN, LEGAL**
19 **CUSTODIAN, OR PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPERVISION OF ANOTHER ADULT.**

20 **(3) “DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**
21 **7–101(G) OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

22 **(4) “INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **7-101(N) OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

2 (5) “LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY” MEANS A STATE, COUNTY, OR
3 MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY OR A SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT.

4 (6) “MISSING PERSON” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL:

5 (I) WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN;

6 (II) WHO SUFFERS A COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT, INTELLECTUAL
7 OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, OR BRAIN INJURY THAT IS NOT:

8 1. ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE;

9 2. DEMENTIA; OR

10 3. A PHYSICAL, MENTAL, OR EMOTIONAL DISABILITY
11 RELATED TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE;

12 (III) WHOSE DISAPPEARANCE POSES A CREDIBLE THREAT TO
13 THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE INDIVIDUAL DUE TO AGE, HEALTH, MENTAL OR
14 PHYSICAL DISABILITY, ENVIRONMENT, OR WEATHER CONDITIONS, AS DETERMINED
15 BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY; AND

16 (IV) WHO DOES NOT MEET THE CRITERIA FOR ACTIVATION OF A
17 SILVER ALERT UNDER § 3-604 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

18 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE SHALL ESTABLISH A
19 PURPLE ALERT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM FOR RAPID DISSEMINATION OF
20 INFORMATION TO ASSIST IN LOCATING A MISSING PERSON.

21 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE SHALL:

22 (I) ADOPT GUIDELINES AND DEVELOP PROCEDURES FOR
23 ISSUING A PURPLE ALERT FOR A MISSING PERSON;

24 (II) PROVIDE TRAINING TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
25 AGENCIES ON THE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES TO BE USED TO HANDLE A
26 REPORT OF A MISSING PERSON;

27 (III) PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
28 AGENCY, AS NECESSARY, TO ASSIST IN THE SAFE RECOVERY OF A MISSING PERSON;

1 **(IV) RECRUIT PUBLIC AND COMMERCIAL TELEVISION AND**
2 **RADIO BROADCASTERS, LOCAL VOLUNTEER GROUPS, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE**
3 **PUBLIC TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A PURPLE ALERT;**

4 **(V) CONSULT WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION TO**
5 **ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION RELEVANT TO A PURPLE ALERT**
6 **TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGN SYSTEM LOCATED ACROSS**
7 **THE STATE; AND**

8 **(VI) CONSULT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
9 **TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM THAT:**

10 **1. ALLOWS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ASSIST IN THE**
11 **SEARCH FOR A MISSING PERSON UNDER THIS SECTION;**

12 **2. COMPLIES WITH COMAR 13A.03.02.06; AND**

13 **3. IS CONSISTENT WITH THE STUDENT**
14 **SERVICE-LEARNING GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF**
15 **EDUCATION.**

16 **(C) A CAREGIVER OR PERSON FILING A REPORT REGARDING A MISSING**
17 **PERSON IMMEDIATELY SHALL NOTIFY THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**
18 **WITH WHICH THE REPORT WAS FILED AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE IF:**

19 **(1) THE MISSING PERSON WHO WAS THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT IS**
20 **LOCATED; AND**

21 **(2) IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR**
22 **THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE HAS KNOWLEDGE THAT THE MISSING PERSON**
23 **HAS BEEN LOCATED.**

24 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
25 **October 1, 2024.**