

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

S.F. No. 3858

(SENATE AUTHORS: KUNESH)

DATE
02/19/2024

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Introduction and first reading
Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; creating a Wambdi Alert system to aid in locating missing
1.3 Indigenous persons; establishing a dedicated phone line for missing and murdered
1.4 Indigenous relatives; providing a criminal penalty; appropriating money; proposing
1.5 coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 299A; 626.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. **[299A.87] MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES;**
1.8 **DEDICATED PHONE LINE.**

1.9 The commissioner of public safety shall establish and operate a dedicated phone line
1.10 for missing and murdered Indigenous relatives. The phone line must operate 24 hours a
1.11 day, seven days a week. The phone line must facilitate connecting a caller with an appropriate
1.12 contact at either the Office for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives or the Bureau
1.13 of Criminal Apprehension.

1.14 Sec. 2. **[626.97] WAMBDI ALERT SYSTEM.**

1.15 Subdivision 1. **Definition.** As used in this section, "Wambdi" means "eagle" in the
1.16 Dakota language.

1.17 Subd. 2. **Establishment.** The commissioner of public safety shall establish a Wambdi
1.18 Alert system to aid in the identification, location, and recovery of missing Indigenous persons
1.19 of any age. The commissioner shall coordinate with local and Tribal law enforcement
1.20 agencies and public and commercial television and radio broadcasters to provide an effective
1.21 alert system.

2.1 Subd. 3. **Criteria and procedures.** The commissioner, in consultation with the
2.2 commissioner of transportation; the superintendent of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension;
2.3 the AMBER Alert coordinator; the executive director of the Minnesota Indian Affairs
2.4 Council; the director of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives office; and
2.5 representatives from the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, the Minnesota Sheriffs'
2.6 Association, and the Minnesota Broadcasters Association, shall develop criteria and
2.7 procedures for the Wambdi Alert system. By October 1, 2024, the commissioner shall adopt
2.8 criteria and procedures for the Wambdi Alert system.

2.9 Subd. 4. **Oversight.** The commissioner shall regularly review the function of the Wambdi
2.10 Alert system and revise its criteria and procedures to provide for efficient and effective
2.11 public notification.

2.12 Subd. 5. **Scope.** The Wambdi Alert system shall include all state, local, and Tribal
2.13 agencies capable of providing urgent and timely information to the public, together with
2.14 broadcasters and other private entities that volunteer to participate in the dissemination of
2.15 urgent public information.

2.16 Subd. 6. **Additional notice.** The commissioner may notify authorities and entities outside
2.17 of the state upon verification that the criteria established under this section have been met.

2.18 Subd. 7. **False reports.** A person who knowingly makes a false report that triggers an
2.19 alert under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

2.20 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.21 \$..... is appropriated in fiscal year 2025 from the general fund to the commissioner of
2.22 public safety to implement this act.