

HOUSE BILL 35

By Moon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38,
Chapter 6, Part 1, relative to veterans at risk.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) There is established within the Tennessee bureau of investigation (TBI) the Green Alert system. The purpose of the Green Alert system is to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information to speed the identification and location of a missing veteran at risk.

(b) If the TBI receives a report that involves a missing veteran at risk, the TBI shall issue an alert providing for rapid dissemination of information statewide regarding the missing veteran at risk. The TBI shall make every effort to disseminate the information as quickly as possible when the status of a missing veteran at risk has been reported to a law enforcement agency.

(c) The TBI shall adopt uniform guidelines and procedures for issuing an alert for missing veterans at risk and shall provide education and training to encourage radio and television broadcasters to participate in the alert. The guidelines and procedures must ensure that specific health information about any veteran at risk is not made public through the Green Alert or otherwise.

(d) The TBI shall consult with the department of transportation and develop a procedure for the use of overhead permanent changeable message signs to provide information on a missing veteran at risk when information is available that would enable motorists to assist in the recovery of the missing veteran at risk. The TBI and the

department of transportation shall develop guidelines for the content, length, and frequency of any message to be placed on an overhead permanent changeable message sign.

(e) The TBI may use the statewide infrastructure of the America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Alert to the extent permissible to facilitate the Green Alert system.

(f) Any entity or individual involved in the dissemination of a Green Alert generated pursuant to this section is not liable for any civil damages arising from such dissemination.

(g) As used in this section, "veteran at risk" means a veteran or an active-duty member of the armed forces, the national guard, or the military reserve forces of the United States who is known, based on the information provided by the person making the report, to have a physical or mental health condition that is related to his or her service.

SECTION 2. For purposes of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect January 1, 2020.