

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3775

To encourage, enhance, and integrate Green Alert plans throughout the United States, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 31, 2023

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself and Mr. MFUME) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To encourage, enhance, and integrate Green Alert plans throughout the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Corey Adams Search-  
5 light Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **MISSING VETERAN.**—The term “missing  
9 veteran” means an individual who—

1 (A) is reported to, or identified by, a law  
2 enforcement agency as a missing person;

3 (B) is a veteran; and

4 (C) meets the requirements to be des-  
5 ignated as a missing veteran, as determined by  
6 the State in which the individual is reported or  
7 identified as a missing person.

8 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
9 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Com-  
10 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin  
11 Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Common-  
12 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

13 (3) GREEN ALERT.—The term “Green Alert”  
14 means an alert issued through the Green Alert com-  
15 munications network, related to a missing veteran.

16 (4) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” means an  
17 individual who is currently serving or a former mem-  
18 ber who served in the United States Armed Forces,  
19 including National Guard, or a Reserve or auxiliary  
20 unit from any branch of the Armed Forces.

21 **SEC. 3. GREEN ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall, sub-  
23 ject to the availability of appropriations, establish a na-  
24 tional communications network, to be known as the Green  
25 Alert communications network, within the Department of

1 Justice to provide assistance to regional and local search  
2 efforts for missing veterans through the initiation, facilita-  
3 tion, and promotion of local elements of the network (re-  
4 ferred to in this Act as “Green Alert plans”), in coordina-  
5 tion with States, federally or State recognized Tribes,  
6 units of local government, law enforcement agencies, the  
7 Department of Veterans Affairs, and other concerned enti-  
8 ties with expertise in providing services to veterans.

9 (b) COORDINATION WITH AMBER ALERT NETWORK  
10 AND OTHER ALERT NETWORKS.—In establishing the  
11 Green Alert communications network under subsection  
12 (a), the Attorney General shall work with States to ensure,  
13 when feasible, the Green Alert communications network  
14 is able to operate in coordination with a State’s existing  
15 AMBER Alert communications network, established under  
16 subtitle A of title III of the PROTECT Act (34 U.S.C.  
17 20501 et seq.), and any other State alert networks, to  
18 maximize the efficiency of all such alert systems, and to  
19 prevent overuse or improper activations of such networks.

20 **SEC. 4. GREEN ALERT COORDINATOR.**

21 (a) NATIONAL COORDINATOR WITHIN DEPARTMENT  
22 OF JUSTICE.—The Attorney General shall designate an  
23 individual of the Department of Justice to act as the na-  
24 tional coordinator of the Green Alert communications net-  
25 work. The individual so designated shall be known as the

1 Green Alert Coordinator of the Department of Justice (re-  
2 ferred to in this Act as the “Coordinator”).

3 (b) DUTIES OF THE COORDINATOR.—In acting as the  
4 national coordinator of the Green Alert communications  
5 network, the Coordinator shall—

6 (1) work with States and Tribal governments to  
7 encourage the development of additional Green Alert  
8 plans in the network;

9 (2) assess the ability of each State to imple-  
10 ment Green Alerts, including the ability and re-  
11 sources available to each State to broadcast such  
12 alerts;

13 (3) establish voluntary guidelines for States to  
14 use in developing Green Alert plans that will pro-  
15 mote compatible and integrated Green Alert plans  
16 throughout the United States, including—

17 (A) a list of the resources necessary to es-  
18 tablish a Green Alert plan;

19 (B) criteria for evaluating whether a situa-  
20 tion warrants issuing a Green Alert, taking into  
21 consideration the need to prevent overuse or de-  
22 sensitization to such alerts, including criteria to  
23 determine—

24 (i) whether the mental or physical ca-  
25 pacity of a veteran who is missing, and the

1           circumstances of his or her disappearance,  
2           warrant the issuance of a Green Alert, in-  
3           cluding whether the veteran has a condi-  
4           tion related to the veteran's service in the  
5           Armed Forces that increases the risk that  
6           the veteran will harm himself or herself, or  
7           another person; and

8           (ii) whether the individual who reports  
9           that a veteran is missing is an appropriate  
10          and credible source on which to base the  
11          issuance of a Green Alert;

12          (C) a description of the appropriate uses of  
13          the Green Alert name to readily identify the na-  
14          ture of search efforts for missing veterans; and

15          (D) recommendations on how to protect  
16          the privacy, dignity, independence, and auton-  
17          omy of any missing veteran who may be the  
18          subject of a Green Alert;

19          (4) develop proposed protocols for efforts to re-  
20          cover missing veterans and to reduce the number of  
21          veterans who are reported missing, including proto-  
22          cols for procedures that are needed from the time of  
23          initial notification of a law enforcement agency that  
24          the veteran is missing through the time of the re-

1 turn of the veteran to family, guardian, or domicile,  
2 as appropriate, including—

3 (A) public safety communications protocol;

4 (B) case management protocol;

5 (C) command center operations;

6 (D) reunification protocol; and

7 (E) incident review, evaluation, debriefing,

8 and public information procedures;

9 (5) work with States and Tribal governments to  
10 ensure appropriate regional coordination of various  
11 elements of the network;

12 (6) establish an advisory board to assist States,  
13 Tribal governments, units of local government, law  
14 enforcement agencies, and other entities involved in  
15 the Green Alert communications network with initi-  
16 ating, facilitating, and promoting Green Alert plans,  
17 which shall include—

18 (A) to the maximum extent practicable,  
19 representation from the various geographic re-  
20 gions of the United States; and

21 (B) members who are—

22 (i) representatives of veteran advocacy  
23 groups, law enforcement agencies, and  
24 public safety communications;

1 (ii) broadcasters, first responders, dis-  
2 patchers, and radio station personnel;

3 (iii) representatives from the Depart-  
4 ment of Veterans Affairs and representa-  
5 tives of State veterans agencies or offices;

6 (iv) federally recognized tribes or  
7 tribes recognized by the State; and

8 (v) representatives of any other indi-  
9 viduals or organizations that the Coordi-  
10 nator determines are necessary to the suc-  
11 cess of the Green Alert communications  
12 network; and

13 (7) act as the nationwide point of contact for—

14 (A) the development of the network; and

15 (B) regional coordination of alerts for  
16 missing veterans through the network.

17 (c) COORDINATION.—

18 (1) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.—

19 The Coordinator shall coordinate and consult with  
20 the Secretary of Transportation, the Federal Com-  
21 munications Commission, the Secretary of Veterans  
22 Affairs, Secretary of the Interior, and other appro-  
23 priate offices of the Department of Justice in car-  
24 rying out activities under this Act.

1           (2) STATE AND LOCAL COORDINATION.—The  
2           Coordinator shall consult with local broadcasters and  
3           State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in  
4           establishing minimum standards under section 5 and  
5           in carrying out other activities under this Act, as ap-  
6           propriate.

7           (d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year  
8           after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
9           thereafter, the Coordinator shall submit to Congress a re-  
10          port on the activities of the Coordinator and the effective-  
11          ness and status of the Green Alert plans of each State  
12          that has established or is in the process of establishing  
13          such a plan. Each such report shall include—

14               (1) a list of States that have established Green  
15          Alert plans;

16               (2) a list of States that are in the process of  
17          establishing Green Alert plans;

18               (3) for each State that has established such a  
19          plan, to the extent the data is available—

20                       (A) the number of Green Alerts issued;

21                       (B) a summary of the efforts by the State  
22          to coordinate with and engage tribal govern-  
23          ments and ensure that tribal communities are  
24          included in their Green Alert plans, including in  
25          the issuance of Green Alerts;



1 (C) the number of individuals located suc-  
2 cessfully;

3 (D) the average period of time between the  
4 issuance of a Green Alert and the location of  
5 the individual for whom such Alert was issued;

6 (E) the State, local, or Tribal agencies or  
7 authorities issuing Green Alerts, and the proc-  
8 ess by which Green Alerts are disseminated;

9 (F) the cost of establishing and operating  
10 such a plan;

11 (G) the criteria used by the State to deter-  
12 mine whether to issue a Green Alert; and

13 (H) the extent to which missing individuals  
14 for whom Green Alerts were issued crossed  
15 State lines;

16 (4) actions States have taken to protect the pri-  
17 vacy and dignity of the individuals for whom Green  
18 Alerts are issued;

19 (5) ways that States have facilitated and im-  
20 proved communication about missing individuals be-  
21 tween families, caregivers, law enforcement officials,  
22 and other authorities; and

23 (6) any other information the Coordinator de-  
24 termines to be appropriate.

1 **SEC. 5. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ISSUANCE AND DIS-**  
2 **SEMINATION OF ALERTS THROUGH GREEN**  
3 **ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM STANDARDS.—  
5 Subject to subsection (b), the Coordinator, in consultation  
6 with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Advisory  
7 Committee, shall establish minimum standards for—

8 (1) the issuance of alerts through the Green  
9 Alert communications network; and

10 (2) the extent of the dissemination of alerts  
11 issued through the network.

12 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

13 (1) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The min-  
14 imum standards established under subsection (a) of  
15 this section, and any other guidelines and programs  
16 established under section 4, shall be adoptable on a  
17 voluntary basis only.

18 (2) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The  
19 minimum standards shall, to the maximum extent  
20 practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in  
21 consultation with State, Tribal government, and  
22 local law enforcement agencies), provide that appro-  
23 priate information relating to the special needs of a  
24 missing veteran (including health care needs) are  
25 disseminated to the appropriate law enforcement,  
26 public health, and other public officials.

1           (3) GEOGRAPHIC AREAS.—The minimum stand-  
2           ards shall, to the maximum extent practicable (as  
3           determined by the Coordinator in consultation with  
4           State and local law enforcement agencies), provide  
5           that the dissemination of an alert through the Green  
6           Alert communications network be limited to the geo-  
7           graphic areas which the missing veteran could rea-  
8           sonably reach, considering the missing veteran’s cir-  
9           cumstances and physical ability, the modes of trans-  
10          portation available to the missing veteran, and the  
11          circumstances of the disappearance.

12          (4) PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES PROTEC-  
13          TIONS.—The minimum standards shall—

14                (A) ensure that alerts issued through the  
15                Green Alert communications network comply  
16                with all applicable Federal, State, and local pri-  
17                vacy laws and regulations; and

18                (B) include standards that specifically pro-  
19                vide for the protection of the privacy and sen-  
20                sitive medical information of missing veterans.

21          (5) STATE AND LOCAL VOLUNTARY COORDINA-  
22          TION.—In carrying out the activities under sub-  
23          section (a), the Coordinator may not interfere with  
24          the current system of voluntary coordination be-  
25          tween local broadcasters and State and local law en-

1 enforcement agencies for purposes of the Green Alert  
2 communications network.

3 **SEC. 6. TRAINING AND OTHER RESOURCES.**

4 The Coordinator shall make available to States, Trib-  
5 al governments, units of local government, law enforce-  
6 ment agencies, and other concerned entities that are in-  
7 volved in initiating, facilitating, or promoting Green  
8 Alerts, including broadcasters, first responders, dis-  
9 patchers, public safety communications personnel, and  
10 radio station personnel—

11 (1) training and educational programs related  
12 to the Green Alert communications network and the  
13 capabilities, limitations, and anticipated behaviors of  
14 missing veterans, which shall be updated regularly to  
15 encourage the use of new tools, technologies, and re-  
16 sources in Green Alert plans;

17 (2) informational materials, including bro-  
18 chures, videos, posters, and websites to support and  
19 supplement such training and educational programs;

20 (3) support, using funding authorized under  
21 section 7, to create or integrate such Green alerts  
22 into an existing State alert system;

23 (4) funding, using funds authorized under sec-  
24 tion 7, for a full-time State Green Alert Coordinator  
25 to carry out the State's Green Alert Plan; and

1           (5) other assistance, as determined appropriate  
2           by the Coordinator, to support the purposes of this  
3           Act.

4 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE**  
5                           **GREEN ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.**

6           There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attor-  
7           ney General \$3,000,000 to carry out the Green Alert com-  
8           munications network as authorized under this Act. States  
9           receiving assistance under this program must submit a  
10          Green Alert Plan containing any information that the Co-  
11          ordinator shall require. Such plan must include a descrip-  
12          tion of how they intend to coordinate with other Alert sys-  
13          tems in the State and work with Tribal governments in  
14          the State.

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