

52:17B-194.4

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2009 **CHAPTER:** 167
NJSA: 52:17B-194.4 (Establishes a "Silver Alert System."
BILL NO: A2844 (Substituted for S1551)
SPONSOR(S) Love and Others

DATE INTRODUCED: May 22, 2008

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Law and Public Safety
Appropriations
SENATE: Budget and Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** March 16, 2009
SENATE: December 10, 2009

DATE OF APPROVAL: December 22, 2009

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Committee Substitute for A2844/2907/277 enacted)

A2844	SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:	(Begins on page 3 of original bill)	Yes
A2907	SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:	(Begins on page 3 of original bill)	Yes
A277	SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:	(Begins on page 3 of original bill)	Yes
	COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	ASSEMBLY:	Yes 9-15-08; 3-9-09
		SENATE:	Yes 6-11-09

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

S1551/S1844

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT S1551: (Begins on page 3 of original bill) Yes

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT S1844: (Begins on page 3 of original bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes 1-26-09; 6-8-09

(continued)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

LAW/RWH

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
**ASSEMBLY BILL, Nos. 2844, 2907
and 277**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED MARCH 9, 2009

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SANDRA LOVE
District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)
Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)
Assemblywoman CARIDAD RODRIGUEZ
District 33 (Hudson)
Assemblywoman CHARLOTTE VANDERVALK
District 39 (Bergen)
Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT
District 6 (Camden)
Assemblyman PAUL D. MORIARTY
District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)
Assemblywoman ELEASE EVANS
District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)
Assemblyman RUBEN J. RAMOS, JR.
District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Spencer, Assemblyman L. Smith, Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttel, Assemblymen Vas, Chivukula, Assemblywoman Greenstein, Assemblymen Prieto, Giblin, Rumpf, Van Pelt, Schaer, Assemblywoman Wagner, Assemblyman Diegnan, Assemblywoman Pou, Assemblymen Conaway, Scalera, Connors, Assemblywomen Voss, Riley, Assemblyman Burzichelli, Senators Cunningham, Girgenti, Baroni, Whelan, Stack, Weinberg, Connors, Madden, Ruiz, Beach, Van Drew and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Establishes a "Silver Alert System."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/11/2009)

1 **AN ACT** establishing a “Silver Alert System” and supplementing
2 Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish a “Silver Alert
8 System” which shall provide a Statewide system for the rapid
9 dissemination of information regarding a missing person who is
10 believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive
11 impairment. The program shall be a voluntary, cooperative effort
12 between State and local law enforcement agencies and the media,
13 including but not limited to print, radio, and television media
14 outlets.

15 b. The Attorney General shall notify the media serving the State
16 of New Jersey of the establishment of the Silver Alert System, and
17 invite their voluntary participation.

18 c. The Missing Persons Investigative Best Practices Protocol
19 Unidentified Deceased Persons Investigative Guidelines,
20 promulgated by the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in
21 the Division of State Police, shall be revised to incorporate
22 procedures for issuing an alert regarding missing persons believed
23 to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment. The
24 guidelines and procedures shall ensure that specific health
25 information about the missing person is not made public through
26 the alert or otherwise.

27

28 2. A Silver Alert authorized under this section may be activated
29 in accordance with the following requirements, which shall be
30 incorporated into the guidelines required by subsection c. of section
31 1 of P.L. c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
32 bill).

33 a. The law enforcement agency receiving the missing persons
34 report shall be the lead law enforcement agency.

35 b. The Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the
36 Division of State Police, upon request, shall assist the lead law
37 enforcement agency in the investigation of a Silver Alert.

38 c. Each of the following criteria shall be met before a Silver
39 Alert may be issued:

40 (1) the person believed to be missing is believed to be suffering
41 from dementia or other cognitive impairment regardless of age;

42 (2) a missing person’s report has been submitted to the local law
43 enforcement agency where the person went missing;

44 (3) the person believed to be missing may be in danger of death
45 or serious bodily injury;

46 (4) there is sufficient information available to indicate that a
47 Silver Alert would assist in locating the missing person; and

1 (5) sufficient information is available to disseminate to the
2 public that could assist in locating the person.
3

4 3. a. The Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the
5 Division of State Police, in consultation with the Department of
6 Transportation, shall develop a procedure for the use of overhead
7 permanent changeable message signs to provide information on a
8 missing person meeting the criteria set forth in section 2 of P.L. ,
9 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) when
10 information is available that would enable motorists to assist in the
11 recovery of the missing person.

12 b. The Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit and the
13 Department of Transportation shall develop guidelines for the
14 content, length, and frequency of any message to be placed on the
15 overhead permanent changeable message sign.

16 c. The procedure and guidelines required in subsections a. and b.
17 of this section shall provide at a minimum that:

18 (1) overhead permanent changeable message signs may be
19 activated only if accurate motor vehicle information is available and
20 it is confirmed that the person was driving the motor vehicle at the
21 time of the disappearance; and

22 (2) the lead law enforcement agency, upon determining that a
23 Silver Alert is warranted, shall contact the Watch Operations Unit
24 in the New Jersey State Police Regional Operations Intelligence
25 Center, which shall contact the Department of Transportation for
26 activation of highway signs.

27 d. The participating media may voluntarily agree, upon notice of
28 the issuance of a Silver Alert, to inform the public of a person
29 believed to be missing within their service regions. The notice shall
30 be provided through the lead law enforcement agency.

31 e. The alerts shall terminate upon notice from the lead law
32 enforcement agency.

33 f. The alerts shall include a description of the missing person
34 and such other information as the lead law enforcement agency may
35 deem pertinent and appropriate. The lead law enforcement agency
36 shall, in a timely manner, update the media with new information
37 regarding the missing person when appropriate.

38 g. The alerts also shall provide information concerning how
39 those members of the public who have information relating to the
40 missing person may contact the lead law enforcement agency or the
41 Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the Division of
42 State Police.

43

44 4. The Attorney General, with the assistance of the participating
45 media, shall develop and undertake a public education campaign to
46 inform the public about the Silver Alert System.

1 5. The Attorney General may adopt guidelines to effectuate the
2 purposes of this act.

3

4 6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month
5 following enactment.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2844

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 22, 2008

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SANDRA LOVE

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman CARIDAD RODRIGUEZ

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman PAUL D. MORIARTY

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Spencer and Assemblyman L.Smith

SYNOPSIS

Establishing a “Silver Alert System” for missing elderly people.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/16/2008)

1 AN ACT establishing a “Silver Alert System” and supplementing
2 Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish a “Silver Alert
8 System” which shall be a program authorizing the broadcast media,
9 upon notice from the State Police, to transmit an emergency alert
10 message to inform the public of a missing elderly person. The
11 program shall be a voluntary, cooperative effort between State and
12 local law enforcement agencies and the broadcast media. For the
13 purposes of this act, “elderly person” means any person who is age
14 65 or older.

15 b. The Attorney General shall notify the broadcast media
16 serving the State of New Jersey of the establishment of the “Silver
17 Alert System,” and invite their voluntary participation.

18 c. The following criteria shall be met before the State Police
19 activate the emergency alert:

20 (1) The elderly person is believed to be missing;

21 (2) The elderly person may be in danger of death or serious
22 bodily injury; and

23 (3) There is sufficient information available to indicate that an
24 emergency alert would assist in locating the elderly person.

25 d. The participating media may voluntarily agree, upon notice
26 from the State Police, to transmit an emergency alert message to
27 inform the public of a missing elderly person who resides within
28 their broadcast service regions. The notice shall be provided
29 through the State Police operational dispatch unit.

30 The alerts shall be broadcast as often as possible, pursuant to the
31 guidelines established by the New Jersey Broadcasters' Association,
32 for the first three hours. After the initial three hours, the alert shall
33 be rebroadcast at such intervals as the investigating authority, the
34 State Police, and the participating media deem appropriate.

35 The alerts shall include a description of the elderly person, and
36 such other information as the State Police may deem pertinent and
37 appropriate. The State Police shall, in a timely manner, update the
38 broadcast media with new information regarding the missing elderly
39 person when appropriate.

40 The alerts also shall provide information concerning how those
41 members of the public who have information relating to the missing
42 elderly person may contact the State Police or other appropriate law
43 enforcement agency.

44 Concurrent with the notice provided to the broadcast media, the
45 State Police operational dispatch unit shall also notify the
46 Department of Transportation, the New Jersey Highway Authority,
47 the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the South Jersey
48 Transportation Authority of the emergency alert. Through the use

1 of their variable message signs, the department and the affected
2 authorities shall inform the motoring public that an emergency alert
3 is in progress and provide information as to how motorists may
4 report any information they have to the State Police or other
5 appropriate law enforcement agency.

6 e. The alerts shall terminate upon notice from the State Police.

7 f. The Attorney General, with the assistance of the
8 participating broadcast media, shall develop and undertake a public
9 education campaign to inform the public about the emergency alert
10 program established under this act.

11 g. The Attorney General may adopt guidelines to effectuate the
12 purposes of this act.

13

14 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

15

16

17

STATEMENT

18

19 This bill establishes an emergency “Silver Alert System” to
20 notify the public of a missing elderly person. This emergency alert
21 plan is based on the “Amber Plan” used by State Police to locate
22 missing children.

23 Under the bill, the emergency alert plan would be a voluntary,
24 cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement
25 agencies and the broadcast media. Upon notice by the State Police,
26 the participating broadcast media would transmit an emergency
27 alert to inform the public of the disappearance of an elderly person
28 in the area.

29 Under the provisions of the bill, the alerts are to be broadcasted
30 as often as possible, pursuant to the guidelines established by the
31 New Jersey Broadcasters' Association, for the first three hours.
32 After the initial three hours, the alert is to be rebroadcast at such
33 intervals as the investigating authority, the State Police and the
34 participating media deem appropriate.

35 The alerts will include a description of the elderly person, and
36 such other information as the State Police may deem pertinent and
37 appropriate. The State Police will also update the broadcast media
38 with new information regarding the missing elderly person when
39 appropriate.

40 The alerts are to provide information concerning how those
41 members of the public who have information relating to the missing
42 elderly person may contact the State Police or other appropriate law
43 enforcement agency.

44 It is the sponsor’s understanding that numerous states have
45 currently instituted a “Silver Alert Program,” including North
46 Carolina, Texas, Michigan and Illinois and Colorado.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2907

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 5, 2008

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes a “Silver Alert System.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/6/2008)

1 AN ACT concerning public safety and supplementing chapter 17B of
2 Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish a “Silver Alert
8 System” which shall be a program authorizing the broadcast media,
9 upon notice from the State Police, to transmit an emergency alert
10 message to inform the public of a missing elderly person. The
11 program shall be a voluntary, cooperative effort between State and
12 local law enforcement agencies and the broadcast media. For the
13 purposes of this act, “elderly person” means any person who is 65
14 years of age or older.

15 b. The Attorney General shall notify the broadcast media
16 serving the State of New Jersey of the establishment of the “Silver
17 Alert System,” and invite their voluntary participation.

18 c. The following criteria shall be met before the State Police
19 activate the emergency alert:

20 (1) The elderly person is believed to be missing;

21 (2) The elderly person may be in danger of death or serious
22 bodily injury; and

23 (3) There is sufficient information available to indicate that an
24 emergency alert would assist in locating the elderly person.

25 d. The participating media may voluntarily agree, upon notice
26 from the State Police, to transmit an emergency alert message to
27 inform the public of a missing elderly person who resides, or may
28 be located, within their broadcast service regions. The notice shall
29 be provided through the State Police operational dispatch unit.

30

31 2. a. The alerts set forth under section 1 of
32 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall
33 be broadcast as often as possible, pursuant to the guidelines
34 established by the New Jersey Broadcasters' Association, for the
35 first three hours. After the initial three hours, the alert shall be
36 rebroadcast at such intervals as the investigating authority, the State
37 Police, and the participating media deem appropriate.

38 b. The alerts shall include a description of the elderly person,
39 and such other information as the State Police may deem pertinent
40 and appropriate. The State Police shall, in a timely manner, update
41 the broadcast media with new information regarding the missing
42 elderly person when appropriate.

43 c. The alerts also shall provide information concerning how
44 those members of the public who have information relating to the
45 missing elderly person may contact the State Police or other
46 appropriate law enforcement agency.

47 d. Concurrent with the notice provided to the broadcast media,
48 the State Police operational dispatch unit shall also notify the

1 Department of Transportation, the New Jersey Highway Authority,
2 the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the South Jersey
3 Transportation Authority of the emergency alert. Through the use
4 of their variable message signs, the department and the affected
5 authorities shall inform the motoring public that an emergency alert
6 is in progress and provide information as to how motorists may
7 report any information they have to the State Police or other
8 appropriate law enforcement agency.

9 e. Concurrent with the notice provided to the broadcast media,
10 all State-issued wireless communication devices shall receive
11 information via text message or other electronic message as deemed
12 appropriate by the New Jersey State Police that an alert is in
13 progress. The notice shall contain instructions for members of the
14 public, who have information relating to the missing elderly person,
15 to contact the State Police or other appropriate law enforcement
16 agency.

17 f. The alerts shall terminate upon notice from the State Police.

18 g. The Attorney General, with the assistance of the
19 participating broadcast media, shall develop and undertake a public
20 education campaign to inform the public about the emergency alert
21 program established under this act.

22 h. The Attorney General may adopt guidelines to effectuate the
23 purposes of this act.

24

25 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

26

27

28

STATEMENT

29

30 This bill establishes an emergency “Silver Alert System” to
31 notify the public of a missing elderly person. This emergency alert
32 plan is based on the “Amber Plan” used by State Police to locate
33 missing children.

34 Under the bill, the emergency alert plan would be a voluntary,
35 cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement
36 agencies and the broadcast media. Upon notice by the State Police,
37 the participating broadcast media would transmit an emergency
38 alert to inform the public of the disappearance of an elderly person
39 in the area.

40 Under the provisions of the bill, the alerts would be broadcasted
41 as often as possible, pursuant to the guidelines established by the
42 New Jersey Broadcasters' Association, for the first three hours.
43 After the initial three hours, the alert would be rebroadcast at such
44 intervals as the investigating authority, the State Police and the
45 participating media deem appropriate.

46 The alerts would include a description of the elderly person, and
47 such other information the State Police deem pertinent and
48 appropriate. The State Police would also update the broadcast media

1 with new information regarding the missing elderly person when
2 appropriate.

3 The alerts would provide information concerning how those
4 members of the public who have information relating to the missing
5 elderly person may contact the State Police or other appropriate law
6 enforcement agency.

7 The bill specifies that in addition to the notice provided to the
8 broadcast media, the State Police operational dispatch unit would
9 also notify the Department of Transportation, the New Jersey
10 Highway Authority, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the
11 South Jersey Transportation Authority of the emergency alert.
12 Those authorities would be required to inform the motoring public
13 that an emergency alert is in progress and to provide information as
14 to how motorists may report any information they have to the
15 police.

16 In addition, all State-issued wireless communication devices
17 would receive notice that an alert is in progress. The notice would
18 contain instructions for members of the public who have
19 information relating to the missing elderly person to contact the
20 State Police or other appropriate law enforcement agency.

ASSEMBLY, No. 277

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2008 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CHARLOTTE VANDERVALK

District 39 (Bergen)

Assemblyman NEIL M. COHEN

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Creates emergency alert plan for missing elderly people.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/25/2008)

1 AN ACT concerning missing elderly persons, establishing
2 emergency alert plan and supplementing chapter 17B of Title 52
3 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish a program
9 authorizing the broadcast media, upon notice from the State Police,
10 to transmit an emergency alert message to inform the public of a
11 missing elderly person. The program shall be a voluntary,
12 cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement
13 agencies and the broadcast media. For the purpose of this act
14 elderly person means any person over the age of 65.

15 b. The Attorney General shall notify the broadcast media
16 serving the State of New Jersey of the establishment of this program
17 and invite their voluntary participation.

18 c. The following criteria shall be met before the State Police
19 activate the emergency alert:

20 (1) The elderly person is believed to be missing;

21 (2) The elderly person may be in danger of death or serious
22 bodily injury; and

23 (3) There is sufficient information available to indicate that an
24 emergency alert would assist in locating the elderly person.

25 d. The participating media shall voluntarily agree, upon notice
26 from the State Police, to transmit an emergency alert message to
27 inform the public of a missing elderly person who resides within
28 their broadcast service regions. The notice shall be provided
29 through the State Police operational dispatch unit.

30 The alerts shall be broadcast as often as possible, pursuant to the
31 guidelines established by the New Jersey Broadcasters' Association,
32 for the first three hours. After the initial three hours, the alert shall
33 be rebroadcast at such intervals as the investigating authority, the
34 State Police and the participating media deem appropriate.

35 The alerts shall include a description of the elderly person, and
36 such other information as the State Police may deem pertinent and
37 appropriate. The State Police shall in a timely manner update the
38 broadcast media with new information regarding the missing elderly
39 person when appropriate.

40 The alerts also shall provide information concerning how those
41 members of the public who have information relating to the missing
42 elderly person may contact the State Police or other appropriate law
43 enforcement agency.

44 Concurrent with the notice provided to the broadcast media, the
45 State Police operational dispatch unit shall also notify the
46 Department of Transportation, the New Jersey Highway Authority,
47 the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the South Jersey

1 Transportation Authority of the emergency alert. Through the use
2 of their variable message signs, the department and the affected
3 authorities shall inform the motoring public that an emergency alert
4 is in progress and provide information as to how motorists may
5 report any information they have to the State Police or other
6 appropriate law enforcement agency.

7 e. The alerts shall terminate upon notice from the State Police.

8 f. The Attorney General, with the assistance of the
9 participating broadcast media, shall develop and undertake a public
10 education campaign to inform the public about the emergency alert
11 program established under this act.

12 g. The Attorney General may adopt guidelines to effectuate the
13 purposes of this act.

14

15 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

16

17

18

STATEMENT

19

20 This bill would establish an emergency alert plan to notify the
21 public of a missing elderly person. This emergency alert plan is
22 based on the "Amber Plan" used by State Police to locate missing
23 children. The "Amber Plan" is named after Amber Hagerman, a
24 nine-year old Arlington, Texas child, who was abducted and killed
25 in 1996.

26 Under the bill, the emergency alert plan would be a voluntary,
27 cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement
28 agencies and the broadcast media. Upon notice by the State Police,
29 the participating broadcast media would transmit an emergency
30 alert to inform the public of a disappearance of an elderly person in
31 the area.

32 Under the provisions of the bill, the alerts are to be broadcasted
33 as often as possible, pursuant to the guidelines established by the
34 New Jersey Broadcasters' Association, for the first three hours.
35 After the initial three hours, the alert shall be rebroadcast at such
36 intervals as the investigating authority, the State Police and the
37 participating media deem appropriate.

38 The alerts will include a description of the elderly person, and
39 such other information as the State Police may deem pertinent and
40 appropriate. The State Police will also update the broadcast media
41 with new information regarding the missing elderly person when
42 appropriate.

43 The alerts are to provide information concerning how those
44 members of the public who have information relating to the missing
45 elderly person may contact the State Police or other appropriate law
46 enforcement agency.

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ASSEMBLY, Nos. 2844, 2907 and 277

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill Nos. 2844, 2907 and 277.

This Assembly committee substitute establishes an emergency “Silver Alert System” to notify the public of a missing elderly person. This emergency alert plan is based on the “Amber Plan” used by State Police to locate missing children.

Under the Assembly committee substitute, the emergency alert plan would be a voluntary, cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement agencies and the broadcast media. Upon notice by the State Police, the participating broadcast media would transmit an emergency alert to inform the public of the disappearance of an elderly person in the area.

Under the provisions of the Assembly committee substitute, the alerts are to be broadcasted as often as possible, pursuant to the guidelines established by the New Jersey Broadcasters' Association, for the first three hours. After the initial three hours, the alert is to be rebroadcast at such intervals as the investigating authority, the State Police and the participating media deem appropriate.

The alerts will include a description of the elderly person, and such other information as the State Police may deem pertinent and appropriate. The State Police will also update the broadcast media with new information regarding the missing elderly person when appropriate.

The alerts are to provide information concerning how those members of the public who have information relating to the missing elderly person may contact the State Police or other appropriate law enforcement agency.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, Nos. 2844, 2907 and 277

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 9, 2009

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 2844/2907/277 (ACS).

The substitute establishes an emergency “Silver Alert System” to provide a Statewide program for the dissemination of information regarding a missing person who is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment.

Under the provisions of the substitute, the program is to be a voluntary, cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement agencies and the media, which is to include but not be limited to print, radio, and television media outlets. The committee substitute requires the Attorney General to notify the media serving the State of New Jersey of the establishment of the “Silver Alert System,” and to invite their voluntary participation.

The provisions of the substitute further require the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the Division of State Police, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, to develop a procedure for the use of overhead highway signs to provide information on a missing person who meets the following criteria:

- (1) the missing person is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment regardless of age;
- (2) a missing person’s report has been submitted to the local law enforcement agency where the person went missing;
- (3) the person believed to be missing may be in danger of death or serious bodily injury;
- (4) there is sufficient information available to indicate that a Silver Alert would assist in locating the missing person; and
- (5) sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the person.

The substitute further provides that participating media may agree to inform the public of a person believed to be missing within their service region. The alerts are to include a description of the missing

person and such other information as the enforcement agency that received the missing persons report may deem pertinent and appropriate. The alerts are to provide information concerning how those members of the public who have information relating to the missing person may contact the law enforcement agency that received the missing persons report or the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the Division of State Police.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that although the substitute would stretch the responsibilities of the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit, there are existing emergency alert systems in place that could be used to fulfill the requirements of this substitute.

The OLS additionally notes that since the law enforcement agency receiving the missing persons report would be the “lead law enforcement agency” on the case, the State would not be the clearance office for all cases. However, if a “lead law enforcement agency” requires assistance from the State Police, its existing Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit could administer the “Silver Alert System” as it currently handles other emergency alert systems.

Finally, the OLS notes that there is a “Silver Alert System” public education campaign required under the bill. The cost for public education campaigns varies and could range from \$15,000, upwards. This education campaign would involve the assistance of the broadcasting media.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ASSEMBLY, Nos. 2844, 2907 and 277

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 11, 2009

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill Nos. 2844, 2907 and 277 (ACS).

The substitute bill establishes an emergency “Silver Alert System” to provide a Statewide program for the dissemination of information regarding a missing person who is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment.

Under the provisions of the committee substitute, the program is to be a voluntary, cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement agencies and the media, which is to include but not be limited to print, radio, and television media outlets. The committee substitute requires the Attorney General to notify the media serving the State of New Jersey of the establishment of the “Silver Alert System,” and to invite their voluntary participation.

The provisions of the committee substitute further require the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the Division of State Police, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, to develop a procedure for the use of overhead highway signs to provide information on a missing person who meets the following criteria:

- (1) the missing person is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment regardless of age;
- (2) a missing person’s report has been submitted to the local law enforcement agency where the person went missing;
- (3) the person believed to be missing may be in danger of death or serious bodily injury;
- (4) there is sufficient information available to indicate that a Silver Alert would assist in locating the missing person; and
- (5) sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the person.

The committee substitute further provides that participating media may agree to inform the public of a person believed to be missing within their service region. The alerts are to include a description of the missing person and such other information as the enforcement agency that received the missing persons report may deem pertinent and appropriate. The alerts are to provide information concerning how those members of the public who have information relating to the

missing person may contact the law enforcement agency that received the missing persons report or the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the Division of State Police.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1551/1844 (SCS), as amended and reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determined that although the bill would stretch the responsibilities of the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit, there are existing emergency alert systems in place that could be used to fulfill the requirements of this bill.

Specifically, OLS estimates that since the law enforcement agency receiving the missing persons report would be the “lead law enforcement agency” on the case, the State would not be the clearance office for all cases. OLS deems that employees in the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit could administer the “Silver Alert System” along with the current emergency alert systems.

Additionally, OLS notes that there is a “Silver Alert System” public education campaign required. The cost for public education campaigns varies and could range from \$15,000, upwards. This education campaign would involve the assistance of the broadcasting media.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, Nos. 2844, 2907 and 277
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

DATED: APRIL 3, 2009

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishing a "Silver Alert System."

Type of Impact: Indeterminate. General Fund.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety; Division of State Police; Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit; local law enforcement agencies.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	Indeterminate- See comments below		
State Revenue	None		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determined that although the bill would stretch the responsibilities of the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit, there are existing emergency alert systems in place that could be used to fulfill the requirements of this bill.
- Establishes a “Silver Alert System” to notify the public of a missing person who may be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairments.
- Requires the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit to revise the Missing Persons Investigative Best Practices Protocol Unidentified Deceased Persons Investigative Guidelines to reflect the requirements of this bill.
- The Attorney General, with the assistance of the broadcast media, is directed to develop and undertake a public education campaign to inform the public about the “Silver Alert” program.

BILL DESCRIPTION

The Assembly Committee Substitute for the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill Nos. 2884, 2907 and 277 of 2009 establishes a Statewide “Silver Alert System” program to notify the public of a missing person suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairments.

The emergency alert program is a voluntary, cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement agencies and the media. The bill specifies that the law enforcement agency that receives the missing persons report is deemed the lead law enforcement agency throughout the case; however, upon request, the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the Division of State Police will assist in the investigations. The bill also specifies the criteria that are to be met before a “Silver Alert” may be issued.

The Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the Division of State Police, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, are required to develop a procedure for the use of overhead highway signs to provide information on a missing person.

The Attorney General is required to notify the media serving the State of New Jersey of the establishment of the “Silver Alert System,” and to invite their voluntary participation. Additionally, the Attorney General is required develop and undertake a public education campaign to inform the public about the “Silver Alert System.”

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None Received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determined that although the bill would stretch the responsibilities of the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit, there are existing emergency alert systems in place that could be used to fulfill the requirements of this bill.

Specifically, OLS estimates that since the law enforcement agency receiving the missing persons report would be the “lead law enforcement agency” on the case, the State would not be the clearance office for all cases. The OLS deems that employees in the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit could administer the “Silver Alert System” along with the current emergency alert systems.

Additionally, OLS notes that there is a “Silver Alert System” public education campaign required. The cost for public education campaigns varies and could range from \$15,000, upwards. This education campaign would involve the assistance of the broadcasting media.

Section: Law and Public Safety

Analyst: Kristin A. Brunner
Senior Fiscal Analyst

Approved: David J. Rosen
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L. 1980, c.67 (C. 52:13B-1 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 1551

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 7, 2008

Sponsored by:
Senator BILL BARONI
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Creates emergency alert plan for missing elderly people.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



S1551 BARONI

2

1 AN ACT concerning missing elderly persons, establishing
2 emergency alert plan and supplementing chapter 17B of Title 52
3 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish a program
9 authorizing the broadcast media, upon notice from the State Police,
10 to transmit an emergency alert message to inform the public of a
11 missing elderly person. The program shall be a voluntary,
12 cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement
13 agencies and the broadcast media. For the purpose of this act
14 elderly person means any person over the age of 65.

15 b. The Attorney General shall notify the broadcast media
16 serving the State of New Jersey of the establishment of this program
17 and invite their voluntary participation.

18 c. The following criteria shall be met before the State Police
19 activate the emergency alert:

20 (1) The elderly person is believed to be missing;

21 (2) The elderly person may be in danger of death or serious
22 bodily injury; and

23 (3) There is sufficient information available to indicate that an
24 emergency alert would assist in locating the elderly person.

25 d. The participating media shall voluntarily agree, upon notice
26 from the State Police, to transmit an emergency alert message to
27 inform the public of a missing elderly person who resides within
28 their broadcast service regions. The notice shall be provided
29 through the State Police operational dispatch unit.

30 The alerts shall be broadcast as often as possible, pursuant to the
31 guidelines established by the New Jersey Broadcasters' Association,
32 for the first three hours. After the initial three hours, the alert shall
33 be rebroadcast at such intervals as the investigating authority, the
34 State Police, and the participating media deem appropriate.

35 The alerts shall include a description of the elderly person, and
36 such other information as the State Police may deem pertinent and
37 appropriate. The State Police shall in a timely manner update the
38 broadcast media with new information regarding the missing elderly
39 person when appropriate.

40 The alerts also shall provide information concerning how those
41 members of the public who have information relating to the missing
42 elderly person may contact the State Police or other appropriate law
43 enforcement agency.

44 Concurrent with the notice provided to the broadcast media, the
45 State Police operational dispatch unit shall also notify the
46 Department of Transportation, the New Jersey Highway Authority,
47 the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the South Jersey
48 Transportation Authority of the emergency alert. Through the use

S1551 BARONI

1 of their variable message signs, the department and the affected
2 authorities shall inform the motoring public that an emergency alert
3 is in progress and provide information as to how motorists may
4 report any information they have to the State Police or other
5 appropriate law enforcement agency.

6 e. The alerts shall terminate upon notice from the State Police.

7 f. The Attorney General, with the assistance of the
8 participating broadcast media, shall develop and undertake a public
9 education campaign to inform the public about the emergency alert
10 program established under this act.

11 g. The Attorney General may adopt guidelines to effectuate the
12 purposes of this act.

13

14 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

15

16

17

STATEMENT

18

19 This bill would establish an emergency alert plan to notify the
20 public of a missing elderly person. This emergency alert plan is
21 based on the "Amber Plan" used by State Police to locate missing
22 children. The "Amber Plan" is named after Amber Hagerman, a
23 nine-year old Arlington, Texas child, who was abducted and killed
24 in 1996.

25 Under the bill, the emergency alert plan would be a voluntary,
26 cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement
27 agencies and the broadcast media. Upon notice by the State Police,
28 the participating broadcast media would transmit an emergency
29 alert to inform the public of a disappearance of an elderly person in
30 the area.

31 Under the provisions of the bill, the alerts are to be broadcasted
32 as often as possible, pursuant to the guidelines established by the
33 New Jersey Broadcasters' Association, for the first three hours.
34 After the initial three hours, the alert shall be rebroadcast at such
35 intervals as the investigating authority, the State Police and the
36 participating media deem appropriate.

37 The alerts will include a description of the elderly person, and
38 such other information as the State Police may deem pertinent and
39 appropriate. The State Police will also update the broadcast media
40 with new information regarding the missing elderly person when
41 appropriate.

42 The alerts are to provide information concerning how those
43 members of the public who have information relating to the missing
44 elderly person may contact the State Police or other appropriate law
45 enforcement agency.

SENATE, No. 1844

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 19, 2008

Sponsored by:

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Senator JOHN A. GIRGENTI

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Whelan, Stack and Weinberg

SYNOPSIS

Establishing a “Silver Alert System” for missing elderly people.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/27/2009)

1 AN ACT establishing a “Silver Alert System” and supplementing
2 Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish a “Silver Alert
8 System” which shall be a program authorizing the broadcast media,
9 upon notice from the State Police, to transmit an emergency alert
10 message to inform the public of a missing elderly person. The
11 program shall be a voluntary, cooperative effort between State and
12 local law enforcement agencies and the broadcast media. For the
13 purposes of this act, “elderly person” means any person who is age
14 65 or older.

15 b. The Attorney General shall notify the broadcast media
16 serving the State of New Jersey of the establishment of the “Silver
17 Alert System,” and invite their voluntary participation.

18 c. The following criteria shall be met before the State Police
19 activate the emergency alert:

20 (1) The elderly person is believed to be missing;

21 (2) The elderly person may be in danger of death or serious
22 bodily injury; and

23 (3) There is sufficient information available to indicate that an
24 emergency alert would assist in locating the elderly person.

25 d. The participating media may voluntarily agree, upon notice
26 from the State Police, to transmit an emergency alert message to
27 inform the public of a missing elderly person who resides within
28 their broadcast service regions. The notice shall be provided
29 through the State Police operational dispatch unit.

30 The alerts shall be broadcast as often as possible, pursuant to the
31 guidelines established by the New Jersey Broadcasters' Association,
32 for the first three hours. After the initial three hours, the alert shall
33 be rebroadcast at such intervals as the investigating authority, the
34 State Police, and the participating media deem appropriate.

35 The alerts shall include a description of the elderly person, and
36 such other information as the State Police may deem pertinent and
37 appropriate. The State Police shall, in a timely manner, update the
38 broadcast media with new information regarding the missing elderly
39 person when appropriate.

40 The alerts also shall provide information concerning how those
41 members of the public who have information relating to the missing
42 elderly person may contact the State Police or other appropriate law
43 enforcement agency.

44 Concurrent with the notice provided to the broadcast media, the
45 State Police operational dispatch unit shall also notify the
46 Department of Transportation, the New Jersey Highway Authority,
47 the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the South Jersey
48 Transportation Authority of the emergency alert. Through the use

1 of their variable message signs, the department and the affected
2 authorities shall inform the motoring public that an emergency alert
3 is in progress and provide information as to how motorists may
4 report any information they have to the State Police or other
5 appropriate law enforcement agency.

6 e. The alerts shall terminate upon notice from the State Police.

7 f. The Attorney General, with the assistance of the
8 participating broadcast media, shall develop and undertake a public
9 education campaign to inform the public about the emergency alert
10 program established under this act.

11 g. The Attorney General may adopt guidelines to effectuate the
12 purposes of this act.

13

14 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

15

16

17

STATEMENT

18

19 This bill establishes an emergency “Silver Alert System” to
20 notify the public of a missing elderly person. This emergency alert
21 plan is based on the “Amber Plan” used by State Police to locate
22 missing children.

23 Under the bill, the emergency alert plan would be a voluntary,
24 cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement
25 agencies and the broadcast media. Upon notice by the State Police,
26 the participating broadcast media would transmit an emergency
27 alert to inform the public of the disappearance of an elderly person
28 in the area.

29 Under the provisions of the bill, the alerts are to be broadcasted
30 as often as possible, pursuant to the guidelines established by the
31 New Jersey Broadcasters' Association, for the first three hours.
32 After the initial three hours, the alert is to be rebroadcast at such
33 intervals as the investigating authority, the State Police and the
34 participating media deem appropriate.

35 The alerts will include a description of the elderly person, and
36 such other information as the State Police may deem pertinent and
37 appropriate. The State Police will also update the broadcast media
38 with new information regarding the missing elderly person when
39 appropriate.

40 The alerts are to provide information concerning how those
41 members of the public who have information relating to the missing
42 elderly person may contact the State Police or other appropriate law
43 enforcement agency.

44 It is the sponsor’s understanding that numerous states have
45 currently instituted a “Silver Alert Program,” including North
46 Carolina, Texas, Michigan and Illinois and Colorado.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS'
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, Nos. 1551 and 1844

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 26, 2009

The Senate law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably a Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 1551 and 1844.

This committee substitute establishes an emergency "Silver Alert System" to provide a Statewide program for the dissemination of information regarding a missing person who is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment.

Under the provisions of the committee substitute, the program is to be a voluntary, cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement agencies and the media, which is to include but not be limited to print, radio, and television media outlets. The committee substitute requires the Attorney General to notify the media serving the State of New Jersey of the establishment of the "Silver Alert System," and to invite their voluntary participation.

The provisions of the committee substitute further require the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the Division of State Police, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, to develop a procedure for the use of overhead highway signs to provide information on a missing person who meets the following criteria:

- (1) the missing person is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment regardless of age;
- (2) a missing person's report has been submitted to the local law enforcement agency where the person went missing;
- (3) the person believed to be missing may be in danger of death or serious bodily injury;
- (4) there is sufficient information available to indicate that a Silver Alert would assist in locating the missing person; and
- (5) sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the person.

The committee substitute further provides that participating media may agree to inform the public of a person believed to be missing within their service region. The alerts are to include a description of the missing person and such other information as the enforcement agency that received the missing persons report may deem pertinent

and appropriate. The alerts are to provide information concerning how those members of the public who have information relating to the missing person may contact the law enforcement agency that received the missing persons report or the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the Division of State Police,.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR **SENATE, Nos. 1551 and 1844**

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 8, 2009

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill Nos. 1551 and 1844 (SCS), with committee amendments.

The substitute bill, with committee amendments, establishes an emergency “Silver Alert System” to provide a Statewide program for the dissemination of information regarding a missing person who is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment.

Under the provisions of the committee substitute, the program is to be a voluntary, cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement agencies and the media, which is to include but not be limited to print, radio, and television media outlets. The committee substitute requires the Attorney General to notify the media serving the State of New Jersey of the establishment of the “Silver Alert System,” and to invite their voluntary participation.

The provisions of the committee substitute further require the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the Division of State Police, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, to develop a procedure for the use of overhead highway signs to provide information on a missing person who meets the following criteria:

- (1) the missing person is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment regardless of age;
- (2) a missing person’s report has been submitted to the local law enforcement agency where the person went missing;
- (3) the person believed to be missing may be in danger of death or serious bodily injury;
- (4) there is sufficient information available to indicate that a Silver Alert would assist in locating the missing person; and
- (5) sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the person.

The committee substitute further provides that participating media may agree to inform the public of a person believed to be missing within their service region. The alerts are to include a description of the missing person and such other information as the enforcement

agency that received the missing persons report may deem pertinent and appropriate. The alerts are to provide information concerning how those members of the public who have information relating to the missing person may contact the law enforcement agency that received the missing persons report or the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the Division of State Police.

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2844/2907/277 (ACS), as also reported by the committee.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments make a technical correction to a section number reference.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determined that although the bill would stretch the responsibilities of the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit, there are existing emergency alert systems in place that could be used to fulfill the requirements of this bill.

Specifically, OLS estimates that since the law enforcement agency receiving the missing persons report would be the “lead law enforcement agency” on the case, the State would not be the clearance office for all cases. OLS deems that employees in the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit could administer the “Silver Alert System” along with the current emergency alert systems.

Additionally, OLS notes that there is a “Silver Alert System” public education campaign required. The cost for public education campaigns varies and could range from \$15,000, upwards. This education campaign would involve the assistance of the broadcasting media.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, Nos. 1551 and 1844
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

DATED: APRIL 3, 2009

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishing a "Silver Alert System."

Type of Impact: Expenditure increase. General Fund.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety; Division of State Police; Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit; local law enforcement agencies.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	Indeterminate- See comments below		
State Revenue	None		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determined that although the bill would stretch the responsibilities of the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit, there are existing emergency alert systems in place that could be used to fulfill the requirements of this bill.
- Establishes a “Silver Alert System” to notify the public of a missing person who may be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairments.
- Requires the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit to revise the Missing Persons Investigative Best Practices Protocol Unidentified Deceased Persons Investigative Guidelines to reflect the requirements of this bill.
- The Attorney General, with the assistance of the broadcast media, is directed to develop and undertake a public education campaign to inform the public about the “Silver Alert” program.

BILL DESCRIPTION

The Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 1551 and 1844 of 2009 establishes a Statewide “Silver Alert System” program to notify the public of a missing person suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairments.

The emergency alert program is a voluntary, cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement agencies and the media. The bill specifies that the law enforcement agency that receives the missing persons report is deemed the lead law enforcement agency throughout the case; however, upon request, the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the Division of State Police will assist in the investigations. The bill also specifies the criteria that are to be met before a “Silver Alert” may be issued.

The Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the Division of State Police, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, are required to develop a procedure for the use of overhead highway signs to provide information on a missing person.

The Attorney General is required to notify the media serving the State of New Jersey of the establishment of the “Silver Alert System,” and to invite their voluntary participation. Additionally, the Attorney General is required develop and undertake a public education campaign to inform the public about the “Silver Alert System.”

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None Received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determined that although the bill would stretch the responsibilities of the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit, there are existing emergency alert systems in place that could be used to fulfill the requirements of this bill.

Specifically, OLS estimates that since the law enforcement agency receiving the missing persons report would be the “lead law enforcement agency” on the case, the State would not be the clearance office for all cases. The OLS deems that employees in the Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit could administer the “Silver Alert System” along with the current emergency alert systems.

Additionally, OLS notes that there is a “Silver Alert System” public education campaign required. The cost for public education campaigns varies and could range from \$15,000, upwards. This education campaign would involve the assistance of the broadcasting media.

Section: Law and Public Safety

*Analyst: Kristin A. Brunner
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: David J. Rosen
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L. 1980, c.67 (C. 52:13B-1 et seq.).