

HOUSE BILL 1473

E4

0lr3471

By: **Delegate Anderson**

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 2010

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Missing Offenders – Blue Alert Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of State Police to establish a Blue Alert
4 Program to provide a system for rapid dissemination of certain information to
5 assist in locating and apprehending certain missing offenders; requiring the
6 Department to adopt certain guidelines and develop certain procedures for
7 issuing a Blue Alert for missing offenders, provide certain training and
8 assistance to local law enforcement agencies, recruit certain broadcasters, local
9 volunteer groups, and other members of the public to assist in developing and
10 implementing a Blue Alert, and consult with the State Highway Administration
11 and the Governor's Division of Emergency Management to establish a certain
12 plan; requiring certain law enforcement officers or agencies to provide a certain
13 notification under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; and generally
14 relating to the establishment of a Blue Alert Program.

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Public Safety
17 Section 3–605
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Public Safety**

23 **3–605.**

24 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**
25 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **(3) “MISSING OFFENDER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL:**

4 **(I) WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN;**

5 **(II) WHO IS SUSPECTED OF KILLING OR SERIOUSLY**
6 **INJURING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER;**

7 **(III) WHOSE DISAPPEARANCE POSES A SERIOUS THREAT TO**
8 **THE PUBLIC AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL; AND**

9 **(IV) WHOSE VEHICLE THE REPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT**
10 **AGENCY IS ABLE TO DESCRIBE, INCLUDING ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE**
11 **VEHICLE’S REGISTRATION PLATE.**

12 **(B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE SHALL ESTABLISH A**
13 **BLUE ALERT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM FOR RAPID DISSEMINATION OF**
14 **INFORMATION TO ASSIST IN LOCATING AND APPREHENDING A MISSING**
15 **OFFENDER.**

16 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE SHALL:**

17 **(I) ADOPT GUIDELINES AND DEVELOP PROCEDURES FOR**
18 **ISSUING A BLUE ALERT FOR A MISSING OFFENDER;**

19 **(II) PROVIDE TRAINING TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**
20 **AGENCIES ON THE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES TO BE USED TO MAKE AND**
21 **HANDLE A REPORT OF A MISSING OFFENDER;**

22 **(III) PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**
23 **AGENCY, AS NECESSARY, TO ASSIST IN THE LOCATION AND APPREHENSION OF A**
24 **MISSING OFFENDER;**

25 **(IV) RECRUIT PUBLIC AND COMMERCIAL TELEVISION AND**
26 **RADIO BROADCASTERS, LOCAL VOLUNTEER GROUPS, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF**
27 **THE PUBLIC TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A BLUE ALERT;**
28 **AND**

29 **(V) CONSULT WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**
30 **AND THE GOVERNOR’S DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO ESTABLISH**
31 **A PLAN FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION RELEVANT TO A BLUE ALERT TO THE**

1 PUBLIC THROUGH THE DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGN SYSTEM LOCATED ACROSS THE
2 STATE.

3 (C) A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR AGENCY THAT APPREHENDS A
4 MISSING OFFENDER WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF A BLUE ALERT IMMEDIATELY
5 SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE AND THE LAW
6 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT FILED THE REPORT RESULTING IN THE BLUE
7 ALERT THAT THE MISSING OFFENDER HAS BEEN APPREHENDED.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2010.