

Chapter 473

(House Bill 1473)

AN ACT concerning

Public Safety – Missing Offenders – Blue Alert Program

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

BY adding to

Article – Public Safety

Section 3–605

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

Article – Public Safety

3–605.

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

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

(3) “MISSING OFFENDER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL:

(I) WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN;

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

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

(IV) WHOSE VEHICLE THE REPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IS ABLE TO DESCRIBE, INCLUDING ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE VEHICLE'S REGISTRATION PLATE.

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

(2) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE SHALL:

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

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

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

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

(V) CONSULT WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION AND THE GOVERNOR'S DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION RELEVANT TO A BLUE ALERT TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGN SYSTEM LOCATED ACROSS THE STATE.

(C) A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR AGENCY THAT APPREHENDS A MISSING OFFENDER WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF A BLUE ALERT IMMEDIATELY SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE AND THE LAW

ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT FILED THE REPORT RESULTING IN THE BLUE ALERT THAT THE MISSING OFFENDER HAS BEEN APPREHENDED.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 4, 2010.