

Chapter 502

(House Bill 1209)

AN ACT concerning

**Public Safety – ~~Silver Alert Program – Pedestrians and Case Status~~  
~~(Eula’s Law)~~ Missing Persons – Information  
(Eula and Danny’s Law)**

FOR the purpose of ~~clarifying that the Silver Alert Program applies to an individual who is believed to be either traveling in a vehicle or on foot; requiring the Department of State Police to establish and maintain a certain online system that reflects a certain case status; requiring a law enforcement agency to enter certain information into the National Crime Information Center computer network at a certain time under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of State Police to place a certain link to a certain Internet site on the home page of the Department’s website; and generally relating to the Silver Alert Program~~ missing persons.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Public Safety  
Section ~~3-604~~ 3-601  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2011 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY adding to  
Article – Public Safety  
Section 3-607  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2011 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

**Article – Public Safety**

~~3-604.~~

(a) (1) ~~In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

(2) ~~“Caregiver” means a parent, spouse, guardian, legal custodian, or person responsible for the supervision of another adult.~~

(3) ~~“Law enforcement agency” means a State, county, or municipal police department or agency, or a sheriff’s department.~~

(4) ~~“Missing person” means an individual:~~

~~(i) whose whereabouts are unknown;~~

~~(ii) **WHO IS BELIEVED TO BE EITHER TRAVELING IN A VEHICLE OR ON FOOT;**~~

~~(iii) who suffers a cognitive impairment including a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or dementia to the extent that the individual requires assistance from a caregiver; and~~

~~[(iii)] (iv) whose disappearance poses a credible threat to the health and safety of the individual due to age, health, mental or physical disability, environment, or weather conditions, as determined by a law enforcement agency.~~

~~(b) (1) The Department of State Police shall establish a Silver Alert Program to provide a system for rapid dissemination of information to assist in locating a missing person.~~

~~(2) The Department of State Police shall:~~

~~(i) adopt guidelines and develop procedures for issuing a Silver Alert for a missing person;~~

~~(ii) provide training to local law enforcement agencies on the guidelines and procedures to be used to handle a report of a missing person;~~

~~(iii) provide assistance to a local law enforcement agency, as necessary, to assist in the safe recovery of a missing person;~~

~~(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 Silver Alert;~~

~~(v) consult with the State Highway Administration to establish a plan for providing information relevant to a Silver Alert to the public through the dynamic message sign system located across the State; [and]~~

~~(vi) **ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE ONLINE SYSTEM THAT REFLECTS, ON A CONTINUOUSLY UPDATED BASIS, THE STATUS OF EACH ACTIVE SILVER ALERT CASE; AND**~~

~~[(vi)] (vii) consult with the State Department of Education to develop a program that:~~

~~1. allows high school students to assist in the search for a missing person under this section;~~

~~2. complies with COMAR 13A.03.02.06; and~~

~~3. is consistent with the student service learning guidelines developed by the State Department of Education.~~

~~(e) A caregiver or person filing a report regarding a missing person immediately shall notify the local law enforcement agency with which the report was filed and the Department of State Police if:~~

~~(1) the missing person who was the subject of the report is located; and~~

~~(2) it is unlikely that the local law enforcement agency or the Department of State Police has knowledge that the missing person has been located.~~

3-601.

(a) (1) A law enforcement agency may not establish a mandatory waiting period before taking a missing person report.

(2) A law enforcement agency shall make every effort to inform the general public and the family of a missing person that the agency does not impose a mandatory waiting period before taking a missing person report.

(b) In accordance with subsection (a) of this section, a law enforcement agency:

(1) shall accept without delay a report of a missing person provided in person; and

(2) may accept a report of a missing person by phone or other electronic means if:

(i) that form of reporting is consistent with the policy of the law enforcement agency; and

(ii) the reporting person completes the report in person as soon as possible.

**(C) WITH REGARD TO A MISSING PERSON AS DEFINED IN § 3-604 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL ENTER ALL NECESSARY AND AVAILABLE INFORMATION INTO THE NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER COMPUTER NETWORK WITHIN 2 HOURS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE MINIMUM INFORMATION NECESSARY TO MAKE THE ENTRY.**

**3-607.**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE SHALL PLACE A DIRECT LINK TO THE INTERNET SITE OF THE MARYLAND CENTER FOR MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS ON THE HOME PAGE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2018.

**Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2018.**