

HOUSE BILL 195

E4

(PRE-FILED)

4r1339
CF 4r1923

By: **Delegates Guyton, Kaufman, and Korman**

Requested: October 31, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Missing Persons With Cognitive Impairment – Purple Alert**
3 **Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Purple Alert Program to disseminate information to
5 assist in locating a certain missing person with certain cognitive impairments; and
6 generally relating to the establishment of a Purple Alert Program.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Public Safety

9 Section 3–608

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Public Safety**

15 **3–608.**

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

18 **(2) “CAREGIVER” MEANS A PARENT, SPOUSE, GUARDIAN, LEGAL**
19 **CUSTODIAN, OR PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPERVISION OF ANOTHER ADULT.**

20 **(3) “DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**
21 **7–101(G) OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(4) “INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**
2 **7–101(N) OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

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

5 **(6) “MISSING PERSON” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL:**

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

7 **(II) WHO SUFFERS A COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT, INTELLECTUAL**
8 **OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, OR BRAIN INJURY THAT IS NOT:**

9 **1. ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE;**

10 **2. DEMENTIA; OR**

11 **3. A PHYSICAL, MENTAL, OR EMOTIONAL DISABILITY**
12 **RELATED TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE;**

13 **(III) WHOSE DISAPPEARANCE POSES A CREDIBLE THREAT TO**
14 **THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE INDIVIDUAL DUE TO AGE, HEALTH, MENTAL OR**
15 **PHYSICAL DISABILITY, ENVIRONMENT, OR WEATHER CONDITIONS, AS DETERMINED**
16 **BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY; AND**

17 **(IV) WHO DOES NOT MEET THE CRITERIA FOR ACTIVATION OF A**
18 **SILVER ALERT UNDER § 3–604 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

19 **(B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE SHALL ESTABLISH A**
20 **PURPLE ALERT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM FOR RAPID DISSEMINATION OF**
21 **INFORMATION TO ASSIST IN LOCATING A MISSING PERSON.**

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

23 **(I) ADOPT GUIDELINES AND DEVELOP PROCEDURES FOR**
24 **ISSUING A PURPLE ALERT FOR A MISSING PERSON;**

25 **(II) PROVIDE TRAINING TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**
26 **AGENCIES ON THE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES TO BE USED TO HANDLE A**
27 **REPORT OF A MISSING PERSON;**

28 **(III) PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**
29 **AGENCY, AS NECESSARY, TO ASSIST IN THE SAFE RECOVERY OF A MISSING PERSON;**

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

4 (V) CONSULT WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION TO
5 ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION RELEVANT TO A PURPLE ALERT
6 TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGN SYSTEM LOCATED ACROSS
7 THE STATE; AND

8 (VI) CONSULT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
9 TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM THAT:

10 1. ALLOWS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ASSIST IN THE
11 SEARCH FOR A MISSING PERSON UNDER THIS SECTION;

12 2. COMPLIES WITH COMAR 13A.03.02.06; AND

13 3. IS CONSISTENT WITH THE STUDENT
14 SERVICE-LEARNING GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
15 EDUCATION.

16 (C) A CAREGIVER OR PERSON FILING A REPORT REGARDING A MISSING
17 PERSON IMMEDIATELY SHALL NOTIFY THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
18 WITH WHICH THE REPORT WAS FILED AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE IF:

19 (1) THE MISSING PERSON WHO WAS THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT IS
20 LOCATED; AND

21 (2) IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR
22 THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE HAS KNOWLEDGE THAT THE MISSING PERSON
23 HAS BEEN LOCATED.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2024.