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Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 6, 2024

Favorable – HB 195
Public Safety – Missing Persons with Cognitive Impairment – Purple Alert Program

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I respectfully request your consideration and favorable report on HB 195 to establish a Purple Alert system in the state of Maryland. This system will expedite the ability for law enforcement to find a disabled missing person who does not fit into the categories of Silver or Amber Alert. In order to qualify to have an AMBER Alert activated, the individual must be a child and have been abducted. For a Silver Alert, the individual must be at least 60 years of age, have a cognitive impairment, be in danger, and be traveling in a vehicle. This leaves a dangerous gap for Marylanders who don't fit into those categories. Initiating a Purple Alert system when children and adults with cognitive disabilities go missing in Maryland would help close that gap. Many other states have done so since efforts to pass this initiative at the federal level have stalled. Hopefully we will have a national Purple Alert System soon, but until then Maryland should protect our most vulnerable citizens.

For these reasons I sincerely hope that you will provide a favorable report on HB195.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegat. Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton