



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 778

January Session, 2019



AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GREEN ALERT SYSTEM FOR MISSING VETERANS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Missing veteran" means any person who is reported to, or
4 identified by, a law enforcement agency as a missing person and is a
5 veteran.

6 (2) "Veteran" means any person who served in the armed forces, as
7 defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes.

8 (3) "Green Alert" means an alert issued through the Green Alert
9 communications network, as established in subsection (b) of this
10 section.

11 (b) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
12 shall, within available appropriations, establish and administer a
13 communications network, to be known as the Green Alert
14 communications network, to provide assistance to a state or local law
15 enforcement agency searching for any missing veteran.

16 (c) (1) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
17 Protection shall designate an employee of the Department of
18 Emergency Services and Public Protection to act as the coordinator of

19 the Green Alert communications network.

20 (2) The coordinator of the Green Alert communications network
21 shall develop proposed protocols for efforts to recover missing
22 veterans and to reduce the number of veterans who are reported
23 missing, including protocols for procedures that are needed from the
24 time of initial notification of a law enforcement agency that the veteran
25 is missing through the time of the return of the veteran to his or her
26 family or conservator.

27 (d) Not later than October 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the
28 coordinator of the Green Alert communications network shall submit
29 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
30 cognizance of matters relating to military and veterans' affairs and
31 public safety, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
32 general statutes, a report on the activities of the coordinator, the
33 number of Green Alerts issued, the number of individuals located
34 successfully, the average period of time between the issuance of a
35 Green Alert and the location of the individual for whom such alert was
36 issued and any other information that the coordinator deems
37 appropriate.

38 (e) (1) The Department of Emergency Services and Public
39 Protection, in consultation with the Department of Veterans Affairs
40 and the Military Department, shall adopt regulations in accordance
41 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes to establish
42 minimum standards for (A) the issuance of alerts through the Green
43 Alert communications network, and (B) the extent of the dissemination
44 of alerts issued through the network.

45 (2) The minimum standards shall provide that:

46 (A) Appropriate information relating to the special needs of a
47 missing veteran, including health care needs, are disseminated to the
48 appropriate state or local law enforcement agency;

49 (B) Dissemination of an alert through the Green Alert

50 communications network be limited to the geographic areas that the
51 missing veteran could reasonably reach, considering the missing
52 veteran's circumstances and physical and mental condition, the modes
53 of transportation available to the missing veteran and the
54 circumstances of the disappearance;

55 (C) Alerts issued through the Green Alert communications network
56 comply with all applicable federal, state and local privacy laws and
57 regulations; and

58 (D) Civil liberties and sensitive medical information of missing
59 veterans are protected.

60 Sec. 2. Section 7-282c of the general statutes is repealed and the
61 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

62 Any municipal police department which receives a report of (1) a
63 missing child or missing youth under eighteen years of age, [or] (2) a
64 missing person who is eligible for assistance under subsection (a) of
65 section 29-1f, as amended by this act, or (3) a missing veteran, as
66 defined in subsection (a) of section 1 of this act, shall immediately
67 accept such report for filing and inform all on-duty police officers of
68 the existence of the missing child, missing youth, [or] missing person
69 or missing veteran report and communicate the report to other
70 appropriate law enforcement agencies.

71 Sec. 3. Section 29-1f of the general statutes is repealed and the
72 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

73 (a) The clearinghouse established under section 29-1e shall collect,
74 process, maintain and disseminate information to assist in the location
75 of any missing person who (1) is eighteen years of age or older and has
76 a mental impairment, [or] (2) is sixty-five years of age or older, or (3) is
77 a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 1 of this act, provided
78 a missing person report prepared by the Department of Emergency
79 Services and Public Protection has been filed by such missing person's
80 relative, guardian, conservator or agent appointed by the missing

81 person in accordance with sections 1-350 to 1-353b, inclusive, any
 82 health care representative appointed by the missing person in
 83 accordance with section 19a-576 or a nursing home administrator, as
 84 defined in section 19a-511, or, pursuant to section 17a-465b, by an
 85 employee of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
 86 who is certified under the provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e,
 87 inclusive. Such relative, guardian, conservator, agent, health care
 88 representative, nursing home administrator or employee shall attest
 89 under penalty of perjury that the missing person (A) is eighteen years
 90 of age or older and has a mental impairment, [or] (B) is sixty-five years
 91 of age or older, or (C) is a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of
 92 section 1 of this act. No other proof shall be required in order to verify
 93 that the missing person meets the criteria to be eligible for assistance
 94 under this subsection. Such relative, guardian, conservator, agent,
 95 health care representative, nursing home administrator or employee
 96 who files a missing person report shall immediately notify the
 97 clearinghouse or law enforcement agency if the missing person's
 98 location has been determined.

99 (b) Subject to available resources, the clearinghouse established by
 100 section 29-1e may collect, process, maintain and disseminate
 101 information to assist in the location of missing persons other than
 102 children and those persons who are eligible for assistance under
 103 subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	7-282c
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	29-1f

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1, Subsec. (e)(2) was rewritten for clarity.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*