

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 36
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Introduced: 2/8/13

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to missing vulnerable adult prompt response and notification plans."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 44.35.020(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall

5 (1) conduct the military affairs of the state as prescribed by the
6 Military Code;

7 (2) cooperate with the federal government in matters of mutual
8 concern pertaining to the welfare of Alaskan veterans, including establishing,
9 extending, or strengthening services for veterans in the state; [AND]

10 (3) annually, not later than February 1, make available a report to the
11 legislature, through the governor, outlining the department's activities during the
12 previous calendar year; the department shall notify the legislature that the report is
13 available; and

14 (4) cooperate with the Department of Public Safety to develop and
15 implement vulnerable adult prompt response and notification plans under

1 **AS 44.41.060.**

2 * **Sec. 2.** AS 44.41 is amended by adding a new section to read:

3 **Sec. 44.41.060. Missing vulnerable adult prompt response and notification**

4 **plans.** (a) The Department of Public Safety, in cooperation with the Department of
5 Military and Veterans' Affairs, shall develop and implement plans for use by law
6 enforcement agencies to use statewide and local radio and television broadcasts,
7 newspapers, and other communications media, other than an emergency alert system
8 operated by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, to locate a vulnerable
9 adult who is missing. The plans must, at least, include standards for

10 (1) determining when it is appropriate to implement a prompt response
11 and notification plan; standards developed under this paragraph must, at least, address

12 (A) procedures for a person to follow when notifying a state or
13 local law enforcement agency that a vulnerable adult may be missing;

14 (B) when a vulnerable adult will be considered missing; and

15 (C) the format, contents, and distribution of reports by law
16 enforcement agencies searching for a missing vulnerable adult;

17 (2) procedures for a state or local law enforcement agency to request
18 dissemination of a missing vulnerable adult report through outlets specified in a
19 missing vulnerable adult prompt response and notification plan;

20 (3) where to implement the plan; and

21 (4) the voluntary participation of radio and television broadcasters,
22 newspaper publishers, and owners or operators of other communications media in the
23 plan.

24 (b) Notwithstanding another provision of law,

25 (1) a person is not civilly liable for

26 (A) failing to participate in a missing vulnerable adult prompt
27 response and notification plan;

28 (B) failing to implement a missing vulnerable adult prompt
29 response and notification plan; or

30 (C) activating a missing vulnerable adult prompt response and
31 notification plan if implementation is undertaken in good faith;

1 (2) a radio or television broadcaster, newspaper publisher, or owner or
2 operator of other communications media is not civilly liable for participating in a
3 missing vulnerable adult prompt response and notification plan or for participating in
4 the actual implementation of a plan if the broadcaster, publisher, or owner or operator
5 has verified the authenticity of that implementation with the law enforcement agency
6 searching for the missing vulnerable adult.

7 (c) In this section, "vulnerable adult" has the meaning given in AS 47.24.900.