

**HOUSE BILL NO. 59**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG**

**Introduced: 1/16/13**

**Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, State Affairs**

**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, using statewide and local radio and television  
6        broadcasters and newspaper publishers, develop missing vulnerable adult prompt  
7        response and notification plans for use by law enforcement to locate a vulnerable adult  
8        who is missing or who has disappeared and coordinate the use of those plans. The  
9        plans must, at a minimum, include standards

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

13                        (A) the circumstances under which a vulnerable adult will be  
14        considered missing; and

15                        (B) the format and contents of and distribution process for  
16        reports prepared by participating law enforcement agencies searching for a  
17        missing vulnerable adult;

18                (2) for determining the proper area in which to implement the plan;

19                (3) providing for the voluntary participation of radio and television  
20        broadcasters and newspaper publishers in the plan.

21                (b) Notwithstanding another provision of law,

22                        (1) a law enforcement agency, or an officer or employee of the law  
23        enforcement agency, is not civilly liable for

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

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

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

30                (2) a radio or television broadcaster or newspaper publisher is not  
31        civilly liable for participating in a missing vulnerable adult prompt response and

1 notification plan or for participating in the actual implementation of a plan if the  
2 broadcaster or publisher has verified the authenticity of that implementation with the  
3 law enforcement agency.

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