

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

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Sponsor Statement

HB 59 – Missing Vulnerable Adult Response Plan

HB 59 creates a new statewide system that will help find missing vulnerable adults. This system, similar to the nationwide Amber Alert System, will notify the public when a mentally or physically impaired senior goes missing.

This bill will require the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to develop and implement notification plans for the event of a missing vulnerable adult. The plan will use a voluntary network of television and radio stations and newspapers to alert the public of a missing adult. Additionally, the bill calls for DMVA and DPS to establish standards on when an alert is triggered and protocols on when a vulnerable adult is considered missing. Currently, 29 states have the Silver Alert System or a similar programⁱ used for the recovery of missing vulnerable adults.

This bill will provide a valuable public system to help ensure that the search for Alaska's missing vulnerable adults happens quickly and efficiently.

If you have any questions, please contact Representative Gruenberg's aide, Miles Brookes, at (907) 465-4940.

ⁱ National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities