

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## SENATOR JOHNNY ELLIS MINORITY LEADER

### **Summary of Changes for Sponsor Substitute for Senate Bill 36**

**Section 2**, which amends AS 44.41 to add Section 44.41.060, was changed to clarify the bill's intent for a missing vulnerable adult prompt response and notification program, also known as a "Silver Alert".

- The phrase "other than an emergency alert system operated by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs" was added to subsection (a) of Section 44.41.060. This phrase indicates "Silver Alerts" should not be broadcast using Alaska's Emergency Alert System (EAS) – which currently is operated using the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs EMnet technology – as it is anticipated Silver Alerts will be more frequent and generally more localized than is appropriate for the Emergency Alert System's unique broadcast method and for its operating procedures, which are appropriately designed to make EAS activation rare.
  - While this legislation intentionally delegates the design of Alaska's "Silver Alert" program to the expertise in Alaska's DPS and DMVA, one such arrangement for the dissemination of "Silver Alerts" could be a process that several other states use in successful missing vulnerable adult response programs – a law enforcement agency, upon determining a Silver Alert should be activated, sends a missing vulnerable adult report to media outlets in the affected area by e-mail, phone or fax. These media outlets then may voluntarily choose to disseminate the alert by reading a missing vulnerable adult report during television and radio broadcasts and posting it on their websites. The law enforcement agency may also contact other agencies in the affected area and use its own communications technology and infrastructure to disseminate the alert.
- The term "and other communications media" was added to various phrases in subsections (a) and (b) of Section 44.41.060 in recognition that effective missing vulnerable adult response plans may need to incorporate the use of social media and internet news outlets.
- The phrase "procedures for a person to follow when notifying a state or local law enforcement agency that a vulnerable adult may be missing" was added to Section 1 of subsection (a) to indicate Alaska's missing vulnerable adult response plan should include a clear and consistent process for a citizen to alert a law enforcement agency of the need for a Silver Alert.
- The phrase "procedures for a state or local law enforcement agency to request dissemination of a missing vulnerable adult report through outlets specified in a missing vulnerable adult prompt response and notification plan" was added as Section 2 of subsection (a) to indicate Alaska's missing vulnerable adult response plan should include a clear and consistent process for a local law enforcement agency to request media dissemination of a Silver Alert.