

SENATE BILL NO. 179

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS DAVIS, Wielechowski, Dyson, Kookesh, Ellis, Meyer, Menard, Paskvan, McGuire, Stedman, Thomas, Olson, Wagoner, Stevens

REPRESENTATIVES Petersen, Gruenberg

Introduced: 1/27/12

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

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 implementation of a notification plan would
 11 be appropriate; at a minimum, these standards must address

12 (A) when a vulnerable adult is to be considered missing; and

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

16 (2) for determining the proper area in which the plan is to be
 17 implemented;

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

20 (b) Notwithstanding another provision of law,

21 (1) a law enforcement agency is not civilly liable for

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

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

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

28 (2) a radio or television broadcaster or newspaper publisher is not
 29 civilly liable for participating in a missing vulnerable adult prompt response and
 30 notification plan or for participating in the actual implementation of a plan if the
 31 broadcaster or publisher has verified the authenticity of that implementation with the

1 law enforcement agency.

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