

**HOUSE BILL NO. 59**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GRUENBERG, Tarr, Millett

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.