



Senate

File No. 968

General Assembly

January Session, 2009

(Reprint of File No. 118)

Substitute Senate Bill No. 451
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 15, 2009

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SILVER ALERT SYSTEM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 7-282c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

3 Any municipal police department which receives a report of a
4 missing child under fifteen years of age or a missing person who is
5 eligible for assistance under subsection (a) of section 29-1f, as amended
6 by this act, shall immediately accept such report for filing and inform
7 all on-duty police officers of the existence of the missing child or
8 missing person report and communicate the report to other
9 appropriate law enforcement agencies.

10 Sec. 2. Section 29-1f of the general statutes is repealed and the
11 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

12 (a) The clearinghouse established under section 29-1e shall collect,
13 process, maintain and disseminate information to assist in the location
14 of any missing person who (1) is eighteen years of age or older and has

15 a mental impairment, or (2) is sixty-five years of age or older, provided
 16 a missing person report prepared by the Department of Public Safety
 17 has been filed by such missing person's relative, guardian, conservator,
 18 attorney-in-fact appointed by the missing person in accordance with
 19 chapter 7, any health care representative appointed by the missing
 20 person in accordance with section 19a-576 or a nursing home
 21 administrator, as defined in section 19a-511. Such relative, guardian,
 22 conservator, attorney-in-fact, health care representative or nursing
 23 home administrator shall attest under penalty of perjury that the
 24 missing person (A) is eighteen years of age or older and has a mental
 25 impairment, or (B) is sixty-five years of age or older. No other proof
 26 shall be required in order to verify that the missing person meets the
 27 criteria to be eligible for assistance under this subsection. Such relative,
 28 guardian, conservator, attorney-in-fact, health care representative or
 29 nursing home administrator who files a missing person report shall
 30 immediately notify the clearinghouse or law enforcement agency if the
 31 missing person's location has been determined.

32 (b) Subject to available resources, the clearinghouse established by
 33 section 29-1e may collect, process, maintain and disseminate
 34 information to assist in the location of missing persons other than
 35 children and those persons who are eligible for assistance under
 36 subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2009	7-282c
Sec. 2	July 1, 2009	29-1f

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Public Safety, Dept.	GF - Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to collect, process, maintain, and disseminate information on any missing person who is 1) 18 years of age or older and with a mental impairment, or 2) 65 years of age or older. This would result in a minimal¹ cost to the Department of Public Safety.

DPS currently maintains and operates a Missing Children Information Clearinghouse that collects, processes, and disseminates information on missing persons under the age of 18. It is anticipated that this clearinghouse could be utilized to accomplish the requirements of the bill at a minimal cost to the Department.

The bill also requires municipal police departments to accept reports of missing persons over the age of 18 with mental impairments and persons over the age of 65, and to disseminate that information to other law enforcement agencies. It is currently the practice of municipal departments to adhere to this course of action and as such does not result in any fiscal impact to municipalities.

House "A" adds nursing home administrators to the list of individuals who may deem a person aged 65 or older as missing for

¹ The Office of Fiscal Analysis defines any impact less than \$50,000 as "minimal."

the purposes of the bill, which does not result in any fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

Source(s): West Hartford Police Department; Cromwell Police Department; Police Officers Standards and Training Council

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 451 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SILVER ALERT SYSTEM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Missing Child Information Clearinghouse to collect, process, maintain, and disseminate information to assist in locating missing persons who are (1) seniors age 65 and older or (2) mentally impaired adults at least 18 years old. The missing person's relative, legal representative, or nursing home administrator must file a DPS missing person report and attest under penalty of perjury that the missing person meets the eligibility criteria. He or she must notify the clearinghouse or law enforcement agency if the missing person is found.

The bill requires local police departments that receive a report of a missing senior or mentally impaired adult to immediately accept the report and notify all on-duty police officers and other appropriate law enforcement agencies. Current law requires this only for reports of missing children under age 15.

Finally, the bill clarifies that, within existing resources, the clearinghouse may collect, process, maintain, and disseminate information to help locate missing persons other than children, seniors, or mentally impaired adults.

*House Amendment "A" adds a nursing home administrator to the list of individuals required to: (1) file a missing person's report with DPS, (2) verify the missing person's eligibility for a silver alert, and (3) notify the clearinghouse or law enforcement agency if the missing person is found.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2009

BACKGROUND

Connecticut's Missing Child Information Clearinghouse

By law, local law enforcement agencies must submit reports of all missing children under age 18 to the DPS-administered Missing Child Information Clearinghouse. Parents may also notify the clearinghouse once they report to local police. The clearinghouse is the state's central repository of information on missing children and others, and the information it collects is used to help locate missing children. By law, the clearinghouse also investigates reports it receives of missing children and cooperates with other law enforcement agencies' investigations, tries to assure that its information is accurate and complete, and participates in an intrastate system for communicating information on missing children (CGS § 29-1e).

Silver Alert Systems

"Silver Alert" or "Senior Alert" programs help identify and locate missing seniors with cognitive impairments. Modeled after the federal Amber Alert system for abducted children, Silver Alert programs create an emergency notification system in which law enforcement agencies broadcast local, regional, or statewide public alerts for missing seniors and other individuals with cognitive impairments, including Alzheimer's disease. Broadcasts may be issued using radio, television, and electronic highway signs.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Aging

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
 Yea 10 Nay 0 (02/17/2009)

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable
 Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/05/2009)

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 33 Nay 0 (04/20/2009)