
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 709

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SILVER ALERT SYSTEM AND MAINTAINING THE PRIVACY OF A MISSING PERSON'S MEDICAL INFORMATION.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the state's missing children information clearinghouse to establish procedures to maintain the confidentiality of the medical information of any missing person, including adults with mental impairment, that is collected, discovered, or otherwise obtained. The procedures must provide that no such medical information is disseminated to the public without the consent of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a missing child or, in the case of other missing persons, the person's spouse, parent, sibling, child, or next of kin. (It is unclear whether mental impairment would be considered medical information subject to the bill's prohibition.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

Missing Children Information Clearinghouse and Missing Persons Reports

This clearinghouse is within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP). It is the state's central repository of information on missing children, adults with mental impairments, and seniors age 65 or older. But, subject to available resources, it may collect, process, maintain, and disseminate information to help locate other missing persons (CGS §§ 29-1e & 29-1f).

By law, parents, guardians, and legal custodians may file missing child reports with local police. Relatives, guardians, conservators, attorneys, healthcare representatives, and nursing home

administrators and employees can do so for missing adults with disabilities.

DESPP protocol requires missing persons' reports to indicate whether the missing person has a mental illness, is addicted to drugs or alcohol, or currently takes prescription medication.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 6 (03/19/2013)