

ASSEMBLY, No. 1755

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

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District 20 (Union)

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Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen DeAngelo, Benson, Danielsen, Assemblywomen Murphy, Jimenez, Lopez and Assemblyman Mejia

SYNOPSIS

Requires Silver Alert System receive same broadcast alerts as Amber Alert System.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/1/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning the “Silver Alert System” and amending
2 P.L.2009, c.167.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 3 of P.L.2009, c.167 (C.52:17B-194.6) is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 3. a. The Missing Persons **[and Child Exploitation]** Unit in the
10 Division of State Police, in consultation with the Department of
11 Transportation, shall develop a procedure for the use of overhead
12 permanent changeable message signs to provide information on a
13 missing person meeting the criteria set forth in section 2 of
14 P.L.2009, c.167 (C.52:17B-194.5) when information is available
15 that would enable motorists to assist in the recovery of the missing
16 person.

17 b. The Missing Persons **[and Child Exploitation]** Unit and the
18 Department of Transportation shall develop guidelines for the
19 content, length, and frequency of any message to be placed on the
20 overhead permanent changeable message sign.

21 c. The procedure and guidelines required in subsections a. and
22 b. of this section shall provide at a minimum that:

23 (1) overhead permanent changeable message signs may be
24 activated only if accurate motor vehicle information is available and
25 it is confirmed that the person was driving the motor vehicle at the
26 time of the disappearance; and

27 (2) the lead law enforcement agency, upon determining that a
28 Silver Alert is warranted, shall contact the Intelligence Watch
29 **[Operations]** and Warning Unit in the New Jersey State Police
30 Regional Operations Intelligence Center, which shall contact the
31 Department of Transportation for activation of highway signs.

32 d. The participating media **[may]** shall **[voluntarily agree]**,
33 upon notice of the issuance of a Silver Alert, **[to]** inform the public
34 of a person believed to be missing within their service regions. The
35 notice shall be provided through the lead law enforcement agency.
36 The alert shall be read after a distinctive sound tone and the
37 statement: “This is a Missing Person Silver Alert.” The alert shall
38 be broadcast as often as possible, pursuant to the guidelines
39 established by the New Jersey Broadcasters Association, for the
40 first three hours. After the first three hours, the alert shall be
41 rebroadcast at those intervals the lead law enforcement agency and
42 the participating media deem appropriate.

43 e. The alerts shall terminate upon notice from the lead law
44 enforcement agency.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 f. The alerts shall include a description of the missing person
2 and **【such】** any other information as the lead law enforcement
3 agency may deem pertinent and appropriate. The lead law
4 enforcement agency shall, in a timely manner, update the media
5 with new information regarding the missing person when
6 appropriate.

7 g. The alerts also shall provide information concerning how
8 those members of the public who have information relating to the
9 missing person may contact the lead law enforcement agency or the
10 Missing Persons **【and Child Exploitation】** Unit in the Division of
11 State Police.

12 (cf: P.L.2009, c.167, s.3)

13
14 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
15 month next following the date of enactment.
16

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18 STATEMENT
19

20 This bill requires media outlets that participate in the “Silver
21 Alert System” to issue the same broadcast alerts used when an
22 “Amber Alert” is initiated following a child’s abduction.

23 The “Silver Alert System” is a Statewide program for the
24 dissemination of information regarding a missing person believed to
25 be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment. Under
26 current law, the program is a cooperative effort between State and
27 local law enforcement agencies and print, radio, and television media
28 outlets.

29 This bill requires participating media outlets, when responding to a
30 “Silver Alert,” to broadcast a distinctive sound tone and the
31 statement: “This is a Missing Person Silver Alert.” The alert is to
32 include a description of the missing person and other information
33 the enforcement agency deems appropriate. In addition, the alert is
34 to be broadcast as often as possible for the first three hours that a
35 “Silver Alert” is in progress. After the initial three hours, the alerts
36 are to be rebroadcast at intervals that the lead law enforcement
37 agency and participating media deem appropriate.