

Amendment No. 1 to SB0001

Bell
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1*

House Bill No. 35

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) There is established within the Tennessee bureau of investigation (TBI) the Green Alert system. The purpose of the Green Alert system is to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information to speed the identification and location of a missing veteran at risk.

(b) A law enforcement agency shall report to the TBI a report received by the law enforcement agency of a missing veteran at risk if:

(1) The report is made to the law enforcement agency within ninety-six (96) hours of the veteran's disappearance;

(2) The agency has conducted, or attempted to conduct, a welfare check on the veteran based on the report and has determined that the veteran is missing;

(3) There is reason to believe that the veteran at risk is missing due to the veteran's physical or mental health condition and that the condition is service-connected; and

(4) Sufficient information is available to disseminate that could assist in locating the missing veteran.

(c) If the TBI receives a report that involves a missing veteran at risk, the TBI shall issue an alert to law enforcement agencies providing for rapid dissemination of

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information regarding the missing veteran at risk. The TBI shall make every effort to disseminate the information as quickly as possible after the status of a missing veteran at risk has been reported by a law enforcement agency, including the law enforcement agency creating the entry of the alert into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). The TBI shall disseminate the alert to local law enforcement agencies in the county of residence of the veteran at risk and adjacent counties.

(d) The TBI shall adopt uniform guidelines and procedures for issuing an alert for missing veterans at risk and shall provide education and training to encourage radio and television broadcasters to participate in the alert. The guidelines and procedures must ensure that specific health information about any veteran at risk is not made public through the Green Alert or otherwise.

(e) In addition to law enforcement notification under subsection (c), the alert must be sent to media outlets in this state at the discretion of the TBI. Media outlets are strongly encouraged to publicize the information provided in order to promote the safe recovery of the missing veteran at risk. When the alert is sent to media outlets, it must contain all appropriate information from the TBI that may assist in the safe recovery of the missing veteran at risk and a statement instructing anyone with information related to the missing veteran at risk to contact their local law enforcement agency or the TBI.

(f) Any entity or individual involved in the dissemination of a Green Alert generated pursuant to this section is not liable for any civil damages arising from such dissemination.

(g) As used in this section, "veteran at risk" means a former member of the armed forces, the national guard, or the military reserve forces of the United States who, based on the information provided by the person making the report:

(1) Is known to have a physical or mental health condition that is service-connected; and

(2) A local law enforcement agency believes to be a risk to the health and safety of the veteran or to the health and safety of others.

SECTION 2. For purposes of promulgating rules, guidelines, and procedures, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2020.