

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2604

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Sponsored by:

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Assemblyman EDWARD H. THOMSON

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

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Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen Pinkin, DiMaso, Jimenez, Vainieri Huttle, Assemblymen Karabinchak, Mejia, Chiaravalloti, Space, Wirths, Assemblywomen Mosquera, Lopez, Senators Gopal, O'Scanlon and Singer

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Blue Alert System."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on February 25, 2019.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/14/2020)

1 AN ACT establishing a “Blue Alert System” and supplementing
2 Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish a “Blue Alert
8 System” which shall provide a Statewide system for the rapid
9 dissemination of information in order to facilitate the apprehension
10 of persons suspected of killing or seriously injuring law
11 enforcement officers and to aid in the location of missing law
12 enforcement officers. The program shall be a voluntary,
13 cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement
14 agencies and the media, including but not limited to print, radio,
15 and television media outlets.

16 b. The Attorney General shall notify the media serving the
17 State of New Jersey of the establishment of the Blue Alert System,
18 and invite their voluntary participation.

19

20 2. a. For the purposes of this act, “lead law enforcement
21 agency” means a law enforcement agency that is conducting an
22 investigation to apprehend a person suspected of seriously injuring
23 or killing a law enforcement officer, or is investigating the
24 disappearance of a law enforcement officer who went missing while
25 on duty under circumstances that warrant concern for the officer’s
26 safety.

27 b. A Blue Alert authorized pursuant to this act may be
28 activated if all of the following criteria are met:

29 (1) the lead law enforcement agency confirms that a law
30 enforcement officer has been seriously injured or killed, and that a
31 suspect has not been apprehended, or that a law enforcement officer
32 is missing while on duty under circumstances warranting concern
33 for the law enforcement officer’s safety;

34 (2) there is sufficient descriptive information about the person
35 suspected of seriously injuring or killing a law enforcement officer
36 or the circumstances surrounding a law enforcement officer’s
37 serious injury, death, or disappearance indicate that the activation of
38 a Blue Alert may assist in locating a suspect or missing law
39 enforcement officer; and

40 (3) the lead law enforcement agency requests that a Blue Alert
41 be initiated.

42 c. Nothing in this section shall require that a Blue Alert be
43 initiated if the criteria under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection b.
44 of this section are met but it is determined by the lead law

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted February 25, 2019.

1 enforcement agency that the activation of a Blue Alert would cause
2 public harm or would compromise an ongoing investigation.

3
4 3. a. Any media outlet that participates in the Blue Alert
5 System established pursuant to section 1 of P.L. c. (C.)
6 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) may voluntarily agree,
7 upon notice of the issuance of a Blue Alert, to inform the public of
8 a missing law enforcement officer, a person suspected of killing or
9 seriously injuring a law enforcement officer, or any other
10 circumstances surrounding the death, serious injury, or
11 disappearance of a law enforcement officer within the service
12 regions of that media outlet. The notice shall be provided through
13 the lead law enforcement agency.

14 b. The alerts shall terminate upon notice from the lead law
15 enforcement agency.

16 c. The alerts shall include a description of the missing officer
17 or person suspected of killing or seriously injuring a **1[police] law**
18 **enforcement¹** officer and **1[such]¹** other information **1[as]¹** the lead
19 law enforcement agency may deem appropriate. The lead law
20 enforcement agency shall, in a timely manner, update the media
21 with new information regarding the missing officer or suspect when
22 appropriate.

23 d. The alerts also shall provide information concerning the
24 method by which members of the public who have information
25 relating to the missing officer, potential suspect, or circumstances
26 relating to the death, serious injury, or disappearance of a law
27 enforcement officer may contact the lead law enforcement agency.

28
29 4. The Attorney General, with the assistance of the
30 participating media, shall develop and undertake a public education
31 campaign to inform the public about the Blue Alert System.

32
33 5. The Attorney General may adopt guidelines to effectuate the
34 purposes of this act.

35
36 6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
37 month following enactment.